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Daily Report

Supplement

Near East & South Asia

***IRAN:
Majles Sessions***

S-NES-95-048-S
nday
March 1995

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Near East & South Asia SUPPLEMENT

IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Islam Nateq-Nuri presiding, and the deputies from the cities of Izeh, Mashhad, Sepidan, and Maku spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the Majles went into session. In this session, the details of the proposal on the prohibition against the use of satellite reception equipment was ratified. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

Yavar Salehi, Deputy From Izeh

The first pre-agenda speaker was Salehi from Izeh, who referred to the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution and said: Recent events have shown that not an ounce of hesitation or disruption has been created in the will of the Palestinian strugglers, and they will continue their efforts to ultimate victory. The heroic nation of Islamic Iran, with its active presence on all scenes and toleration of much hardship and damage, has shown its strong loyalty to the Islamic revolution and the guardian of Muslims in the most beautiful manner.

He added: This generous nation has certain expectations of its concerned and committed officials that must be stated from the podium of the "House of the People." The sincere children of Islam, in fighting domestic and foreign enemies, have displayed such bravery that, despite their enemies' sinister alliance, finally their conspiracies have been turned against them.

Stating the necessity of paying attention to the talents of the youth in the society, which is the secret of the progress of developed countries, he said: It is astonishing that in neither plan has much attention been paid to this issue. In the Second Plan, 620 billion rials [R] in the current budget of the educational organizations of the country were intentionally left out until they were restored with the efforts of a group of the deputies.

Stating that Paragraph "J" of Note 8 of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget law, after 10 months, has still not been implemented, he pointed out: As a result of this lack of attention this year, while the place of service of specialist physicians was quite visible, I did not see even one of them volunteer to serve in the deprived regions of the country.

In continuation, Salehi referred to the issue of reforming the administration of various organizations of the country and said: The parameters of relationships, including religious, marital, and friendship ones, have resulted in the presence of certain incompetent, inexperienced persons with little education who sometimes have other problems in the administrative complex, especially in the government-affiliated companies, which is not in any way in our interest. Failure to calculate the work output of managers, failure to pay careful attention to selections, and failure to establish

scientific and careful evaluation files for managers will certainly result in a decrease in the motivation for work and an increase in the numbers of insincere individuals who resort to flattery to get what they want. When the technical capability to build dams increases in the country, with the efforts of a group of experts, important general dams are built. Should these competent managers be introduced to the society?

Referring to the failure to determine the price of people's goods on the basis of particular regulations, he pointed out: Why does the government not make an effort in this regard? What is the explanation for goods that are sold to the people based on no regulations at several times the price, and the producer gains nothing from such an increase?

In regard to the deprivation of the province of Khuzestan, the deputy from Izeh said: I declare the incompetence and incapability of Mr. Zanjani, the director of the Plan and Budget Organization, in regard to this great trust for which he has accepted responsibility. I announce that the people of Khuzestan have complained because of a lack of attention being given to the particular situation of this province in the distribution of the budget. When the drinking water of the people of Ahvaz is procured from an area to which is added the water for about 120,000 hectares of upper area lands and the sewage of two cities, the situation with regard to the water of other cities can be imagined.

Seyyed Hashem Banihashemi, Deputy From Mashhad

The next speaker was Banihashemi from Mashhad, who said: The possibility of the religious source of emulation explaining the instructions of Islam under current circumstances is itself a sacred bond that can ensure the implementation of Islamic instruction and make Muslims aware of their duties in their individual and social lives and in confrontation with the enemies.

He continued: Under the circumstances today, with the Islamic world going through sensitive conditions and Islamic Iran being the motherland of pure Mohammadan Islam, the alert, brave, and fully qualified source of emulation, who was introduced by the Society of Teachers of Qom Seminary after the death of Grand Ayatollah Araki, can play an important role in strengthening and guiding the society of Muslims.

The speaker emphasized: The grand leader of the Islamic revolution, Grand Ayatollah Imam Khamene'i, can return to the Islamic society the Imam-like power and capability, so that the Islamic world, especially the 'Alavid Shiites, can with historical pride engage in revitalizing the religion of Mohammad.

In continuation, Banihashemi commended the Voice and Vision for improving the content and quality of its programs and added: The model of the chador is welcomed by the women in the country as a kind of Islamic veiling. Last year, a group of people of the holy city of

Mashhad, in a 110-meter petition, asked that the chador be established as the official dress for women in the country. Few days ago, we also witnessed the choice of the chador as the preferred form of veiling of the students of the Free Islamic University.

He explained: How is it that the Ministry of Islamic Guidance has not been able to have appropriate programs with national support deserving of the great international city, the holy city of Mashhad? And if it is to plan tourism, especially by the Muslims in the world, the programs of the Ministry of Guidance are insignificant. It is necessary to pay attention to this important issue.

Emphasizing that the Second Plan begins at a time when conditions are ripe for achieving its goals, Banihashemi said: The administration of the country, with the help and participation of the people, can implement the Second Plan with more strength than the First Plan. The problems facing this plan are much fewer than those of the First Plan, because the conditions after the war, with the start of reconstruction; the problems of modification; the necessity of fundamental investment for energy, education, agriculture, industry, and communications; and the lack of short-term returns on investments were among the problems of the First Plan. Under the present conditions, we will be able to benefit from the investments that were made.

Referring to the method of allocating the annual budget of projects in various regions, the speaker emphasized: In addition to the necessity of appropriate national divisions based on climatic, political, and population characteristics, it is necessary, on the basis of the law of the Second Plan, that the bill be presented by the government to the Majles. The Plan and Budget Organization and the executive organizations should distribute the budget among the regions on the basis of the coefficients of defined indexes.

In conclusion, the deputy from Mashhad thanked the minister of roads for starting the Tehran-Mashhad two-way railroad.

Seyyed Abolfazl Razavi-Ardakani, Deputy From Sepidan

The last pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Razavi-Ardakani from Sepidan, who referred to the crimes of the Serbs, the invasion of the freedom-loving people of Chechnya by the Russian Army, the silence of the human rights organizations and the Security Council, and the implied endorsement by the United States and the West of the crimes of Caucasia, and said: The president of Russia must know that the time for the imposition of power and revitalization of Stalin-like dictatorship has ended, and today the nations have the last word, not the governments.

He continued: The leaders of Arab countries must know that their path to salvation is not in compromise and submission with regard to the Zionists and the suppression

of the Islamic uprising of nations. The heroic and Islamic uprising and movement of the Muslim people of Palestine, Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, and other areas proves the authenticity and power of the Islamic revolution in the Islamic world.

He emphasized: The leaders of the Arab countries who have sold themselves must know that they will not be able to prevent the wave of the Islamic storm of the nations.

Addressing the sheikhs of the Persian Gulf coast, the speaker said: They must not play with the lion's tail and must know that greed for even one inch of Iranian soil will result in the destruction of their glass palaces. If you possessed Arab honor and zeal you would not become so abject and miserable before Israel. Have the brave young people of the Persian Gulf died, so that Rabin can step on Oman today and tomorrow on Riyadh, Kuwait, and Bahrain? Break his legs and discipline your incompetent and dishonorable sheikhs.

Stating that the wise statements and the humble reaction of the leader of the revolution in connection with the question of the religious source of emulation was a strong fist to the mouth of the domestic and foreign nonsense speakers and daydreamers, the deputy from Sepidan said: The Iranian nation will not allow known individuals who have unfortunately failed the test to be discussed. Our nation has found its path and, by the grace of God and with the attention of the Imam of the Age, who has always affected the Shiite source of emulation, has accepted the authority of the alert religious jurist, who is also the guardian of Muslims, with its heart and soul.

Pointing out that today we can compare the character of the beloved president to that of Martyr Beheshti, Razavi-Ardakani said: Those who separated their path from the revolution, the nation, the universities, and students and created disunity among the people and students in that march under the pretext of fighting the United States by resorting to unfair and deceptive statements must know that the creation of any kind of disunity and partisanship in the nation is treason to the revolution and moving on the course of U.S. interests.

The deputy of Sepidan emphasized: Is the president guilty of anything but stopping the freeloaders and those who engage in misuses? Do they want to continue freeloading in the form of large subsidies from the pockets of this oppressed nation and once again revitalize the seven-tuman foreign currency, that is, to set fire to the national wealth?

Referring to the sensitive condition of accepting the responsibility of the presidency by Mr. Hashemi, he explained: Is changing a consumer and importing country to a producer and exporting country that is self-reliant a crime? In 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], when the president took charge of the country, in addition to the problems resulting from the war and the chaos, there was more than \$20 billion in debts and

foreign obligations from the previous government. Why do they proclaim slogans, that at the time of the government of Engineer Musavi there was no foreign debt? Of course there was, but they would not talk about it.

Razavi-Ardakani continued: This is the handwriting of the director of the Central Bank at the time, Dr. 'Adeli, when I asked a question and he responded in his own handwriting that "the total debt is not clear, but the remainder of debt early in 1368 was \$12.9 billion."

In conclusion, the speaker thanked the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone for extending telephone codes to one of the oppressed districts of his constituency and for the development of 5,000 number centers in the city; the director of records for creating the Sepidan Office of Records; and the Ministries of Jihad and Education for their significant activity.

Mohammad 'Abbaspur, Deputy From Maku

The last pre-agenda speaker was 'Abbaspur, the deputy from Maku, who offered his condolences and said: On the first day of the Christian year, by expressing disgust for genocide, we must not any longer be the onlookers to the sad tragedy of the slaughter of innocent human beings. By imposing pressure on and protesting against the false supporters of human rights and international assemblies, we must support the rights of human beings, the right to live, govern, and live in peace, because this is the mission of the prophets and the message of divine religions, particularly Islam and Christianity.

He referred to the devising and ratification of the Second Five-Year Plan and said: The successful devising and ratification of the Second Plan by the Majles, followed by the presentation of the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1995] budget by the government and the Majles, indicates the economic power and management of the government. It is hoped that in the near future the Majles deputies, with the work of experts, will take essential steps in enhancing the national wealth and capability and the potential resources of the country by allocating funds for the elimination of deprivation in the deprived regions; for the agriculture and water sector, both of which are the greatest of our national resources and wealth and are followed by the terms economic independence and self-sufficiency; and also for conversion industries and the creation of educational and job centers to train skilled manpower, which is the dynamic element of production.

'Abbaspur then in connection with the problems of his constituency referred to the importance of Maku, considering the fact that it is on the border, and asked the minister of economic affairs and finance to take steps to reopen the border markets of this province.

He also reminded the minister of health, treatment and medical education of the need to investigate the weak health and treatment management of the province and the shortage of drugs in the region.

Ratifications

Proposal on the Prohibition of the Use of Satellite Reception Equipment

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of the examination of the proposal on the prohibition of the use of satellite reception equipment, the details of which were ratified by the deputies.

Article 9 of this proposal states: The users of satellite reception equipment, in addition to confiscation of the discovered property, will be condemned to a cash fine of R1-3 million.

A. The transportation, maintenance, installation and repair of satellite reception equipment is prohibited, and violators shall be condemned to cash fines of R1-5 million.

B. Funds received as fines in Articles 8 and 9 of this law shall be deposited in the Treasury, 100 percent of which shall be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and the Voice and Vision to fight cultural invasion.

Based on Article 10 of this law, "the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone and the related organizations, is responsible for making use of the international legal leverages to take the necessary steps to protect the cultural borders of countries and protect the institution of the family against destructive and obscene satellite programs.

"Note: Publication of commercial announcements through various means by the press, the Voice and Vision, or urban advertisement that requires a license for the use of satellite programs is strictly forbidden."

Article 11. The government is responsible for preparing and approving its implemental bylaws within a period of one month from the date of the ratification of this law.

Attached article. This law will be implemented for a period of three years and, if needed, will be extended.

Proposal on Prohibiting Having More Than One Job (Returned From the Council of Guardians)

The second item on the agenda was the report of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Committee on the proposal prohibiting having more than one job (returned from the Council of Guardians). The amendment of the committee was ratified by the Majles.

The spokesman of the committee, explaining this amendment, said: When Note 2 was returned from the Council of Guardians, we added the word "research," which stated, "Teaching and research in universities and research and educational institutes is not considered an educational position." But the honorable Council of Guardians regarded this issue as an interpretation of the

Constitution and objected to it. In order to conform to the opinion of the honorable Council of Guardians, the committee omitted Note 2.

After opposing and supporting speeches, the suggestion for the omission of Note 2 of this proposal was put to a vote and ratified.

Proposal To Amend the Internal Bylaws of the Majles (Returned From the Council of Guardians)

The last item on the agenda was the report of the Committee on Devising the Internal Bylaws of the Majles in regard to the proposal to amend Article 74 of the internal bylaws (returned from the Council of Guardians). The committee's amendment was ratified by the deputies.

The note to Article 74 of the internal bylaws of the Majles that was objected to by the Council of Guardians was amended as follows:

Note: The chairman of the open session of the Majles may in necessary cases grant permission to the head or the prosecutors of the Accounting Court to express an opinion about the related proposal and bills.

The Majles will not have a session on Tuesday to examine the 1374 budget bill. The next session will be on Wednesday of this week.

On the Margins of the Majles

Selection of technical minister for the examination of cultural discussions about satellites.

The proposal on the prohibition of satellite reception equipment, the second round of discussions of which was ratified by the Majles yesterday, was a cultural discussion, and the deputies dealt with it with belief in cultural necessities. The fact that the government representative should be selected from among the technical ministers and examine most of the notes ratified by the committee as technical issues and oppose them is worthy of contemplation.

Despite this issue, even though the deputies heard all the technical discussions and reasoning on the issue from the minister of communications, and the government representative repeatedly stated his explanations, the deputies alertly gave their cultural opinion. With all the efforts made in recent weeks to prevent the ratification of the proposal prohibiting satellites and the omission of some of its articles, on the whole, the main thrust of the proposal ratified by the committee was preserved.

Based on Article 7 of this proposal, organizations must go to the Ministry of Guidance to receive legal permission to use satellite equipment. But the opinion of the government representative was that this permission should be given to the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone. When this article was being discussed, the parliamentary deputy of the Ministry of Guidance wanted to speak in support of the opinion of the Guidance Committee. But the speaker of the Majles said: Despite the fact that the proposal on

prohibiting satellites is mostly cultural, the government only introduced the minister of post, telegraph and telephone. Hence, the parliamentary deputy did not speak.

Agenda of Weekly Session of Majles Committees

Introduction: What follows is the agenda of the sessions of the Majles committees this week, which is presented for our readers.

Administrative and Employment Affairs Committee

Examination of the National Retirement Organization budget.

Examination of the National Documents Organization budget.

Housing and Urban Development and Roads and Transport Committees

Examination of the Fokker airplane accident of the Aseman Company in the presence of officials of the Ministry of Roads and Judicial Affairs of Esfahan.

Technical and Legal Affairs Committee

Continuation of the examination of the Islamic punishment bill.

Foreign Policy Committee

Examination of the bill on the air transportation agreement between the governments of Iran and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Articles 88 and 90 Committee

Meeting with representatives of the National Inspection Organization, the Ministry of Finance, and Sepah Bank regarding the examination of the files concerning Sepah Bank.

Invitation by the political and military division of the committee of the mayor of District 15 in regard to the case under discussion.

Special Committee To Examine the Laws of the Revolution Council and Those Prior to the Revolution

Examination of the trade law.

4 Jan 95

95LA0096A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
5 Jan 95 pp 6, 13

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Then the Majles went into session. We call your attention to the details of the discussion.

Statements of the Speakers of the Majles

In the open session of the Majles yesterday, Mr. Nateq-Nuri offered his congratulations on the blessed birthday of his holiness Aba 'Abd-Allah Hoseyn and in this connection said: Imam Hoseyn also taught human beings a lesson in humanity and freedom, because he was not only a liberal human being but a seeker of freedom. He was not only a just human being but a seeker of justice. In defense of truth and justice and the struggle against tyrants, mini-tyrants, and those with tyrannical characteristics, His Holiness did not hesitate at any effort.

Pointing out that whatever we have and had has been and is due to the martyrdom of Hoseyn, the speaker of the Majles said:

The Muslim people of Lebanon who resist and fight bravely against the occupying Zionists have received their inspiration from the ideology of His Holiness. If our leader stands against global oppressors and tyrants and roars before them, it is a lesson he has learned in the school of Hoseyn.

In continuation, Mr. Nateq-Nuri referred to Guards Day, praised the self-sacrifice of these dear ones in the course of eight years of sacred defense, and pointed out: The Majles has practically completed its mission in examining the situation of these dear ones and will do so in the future. When our Guards and military stood against global oppressors for eight years and did not allow the ugliness of the revolution to be harmed, it was due to a lesson that they learned in the school of jihad and martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn. In conclusion, the speaker of the Majles honored Self-Sacrificers' Week, in [memory of] these dear ones [who] offered their lives sincerely.

Seyyed Hoseyn Fattahi, Deputy From Mashhad

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session yesterday was Fattahi from Mashhad, who offered his congratulations on the prophethood of the Prophet, the birthdays of Imam Hoseyn and his holiness Abu al-Fazl al-'Abbas, and the birthday of his holiness Christ, as well as Self-Sacrificers Week and said: I ask of the officials and all the people of Iran to emulate the grand leader of the revolution and take serious steps to eliminate the problems of these investments in the revolution.

In continuation, he asked the Ministries of Housing and Economic Affairs and Finance for more attention in regard to solving the problems of housing and banking loans for self-sacrificers.

In connection with the issue of the employment of self-sacrificers, Fattahi said: I ask the speaker of the Majles to issue instructions to place the bill on employment and social facilitation of the self-sacrificers of the

Islamic revolution on the agenda of the Majles as soon as possible in order to eliminate one of the problems of the beloved self-sacrificers through its ratification.

Pointing out that the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] budget is based on large goals and the ratified notes of the Second [Five-Year Economic and Development] Plan must be devised and presented, the speaker said: With a look at the 1374 budget bill, which is being examined in the Majles, some contradictions can be seen that do not conform to the contents of the notes and broader policies of the plan. Alertness, intelligence, and care of all the deputies of the Majles in examining the 1374 budget, which is the first year of the implementation of the Second Plan, and its conformity with the principles governing the Second Development Plan are among the most essential tasks.

In the same connection, he said: In regard to the payment of subsidies on essential goods by preserving coupons and the amount of foreign currency of 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], in the course of the Five-Year Plan, in the 1374 budget, no specific condition and appropriate amount is projected with regard to foreign currency and rials. Regarding the implementation of the general insurance for health services law ratified by the Majles in Mehr this year [23 September-22 October 1994], according to which, based on the Five-Year Plan, treatment is extended, first, the ratified ceiling of the funds in the health, treatment, and nutrition section has decreased, and the current budget for treatment services of all medical science universities throughout the country has been omitted, and all their funds have been included as special revenues that must be provided by selling treatment services offered to patients and collecting funds for all current expenditures of these units.

The speaker emphasized: In fact, the same economic self-sustaining system of teaching hospitals of universities and non-educational hospitals throughout the country will be implemented from the beginning of 1374, in accordance with the budget bill.

Stating that this economic system for the management of hospitals calls to mind the idea of privatization of treatment and is not legal, Fattahi added: According to the general health services insurance law ratified by the Majles, the sale and transfer of non-educational hospitals and also the economically self-sustaining operation of teaching hospitals was omitted in the Majles, and this economic system and elimination of necessary subsidies in hospitalization and treatment training have been strongly opposed.

The deputy from Mashhad explained: If the economic system intended in the government budget bill is to be implemented from the start of 1374, it is not clear how all hospitals that lack current funds are to be operated and how services will be offered to uninsured emergency patients. And what will be the fate of 16,000 hospital beds in the deprived regions that cannot be operated economically without the financial support of the government?

In continuation, he asked the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education to take steps as soon as possible to appoint the head of the Treatment Services Insurance Organization and the operation of this organization, providing insurance for the vulnerable strata and villagers, and reforming the present insurance of government employees.

In conclusion, the deputy from Mashhad asked the director of the Plan and Budget Organization to allocate the funds for the developmental projects of the Ferdowsi and Medical Universities, the large Voice and Vision project, and other developmental projects in Mashhad on time.

Mansur Soleymani, Deputy From Shahr-e Babak

The next speaker was Soleymani from Shahr-e Babak, who offered his congratulations on the prophethood of the Prophet, the start of the new Christian year, and the blessed birthday of his holiness Imam Hoseyn and said: In Dey 1357 [22 December 1978-20 January 1979], the struggle of the Iranian people, under the leadership of the late Imam and due to decisive obedience to and support for the source of emulation, reached its zenith. On 26/10/1357 [16 January 1979], the treasonous Shah fled the country of jihad and martyrdom and became a guest of the pharaoh of Egypt, al-Sadat, who was more treasonous than the Shah was.

He explained: I am certain that as long as we move with unity on the direct path of obedience to the guardian of Muslims and respect the principles of the Constitution, our country will be safe from the conspiracies of foreigners. I thank the grand leader who spoke about the lofty status of the source of emulation, gladdened the hearts of friends, and disappointed the enemies of the revolution.

Then, in connection with the problems of his constituency, the speaker thanked the Office of Deprived Regions for their attention to the deprived villages of Shahr-e Babak.

He asked for the assistance of the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education in the issuance of permits for building a hospital and the director of the Physical Education Organization for allocating needed funds to the region.

Hasan Kamran, Deputy From Esfahan

Kamran the deputy from Esfahan, as another pre-agenda speaker, referred to Self-Sacrificers Week and the statements of the grand leader in praise of self-sacrificers and said: Essentially, if today in terms of security arrangements the world has reached the conclusion that in its strategic triangle, that is, Tokyo, Brussels, and Cairo, it can create this balance in the world, its center is the Persian Gulf. He added: Despite all these reactions, today they have reached the conclusion that the Islamic

Republic has power, and the result of this power is nothing but the self-sacrifice of the Guards, the Basijis, and the self-sacrificers.

We have beloved self-sacrificers who, despite having lost both eyes, have succeeded in completing a bachelors degree with a grade point average of 18 and a masters degree with a grade point average of 19 and have also completed their doctoral degrees. This shows their scholarly capabilities.

Kamran called the attention of the Ministry of Sciences to the Imam Hoseyn University more than ever before and said: I request of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency to announce the law of self-sacrificers, the result of which many of the problems of the self-sacrificers will be resolved. In regard to the law of disabled and martyred self-sacrificing employees, the bylaws of which had not been announced for more than five years and was recently announced, the organizations must take steps in a way that this task is accomplished by the end of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] fiscal year.

Also, the Foundation for Self-Sacrificers, which is in charge of this issue, must be in contact with the Majles more than it has. The weakest parliamentary deputy of organizations belongs to the Foundation for Self-Sacrificers.

The Ministry of Health must accept responsibility for the treatment of self-sacrificers. Dr. Kamran added: Is it acceptable for us to make Yaser Hospital, which resembles a residential housing unit, into nine hospitals and then put up another sign for the Khatam al-Anbia' Hospital, which was built with the money of self-sacrificers? In connection with the problems of self-sacrificers, it is necessary to take a national step. We must act in such a way that this working conscience and social order are clear in our work, especially in regard to self-sacrificers, from beginning to end.

Mohammad Naser Tavassolizadeh, Deputy From Torbat-e Heydariyeh

The next speaker was Tavassolizadeh from Torbat-e Heydariyeh, who said: On 9 Dey [30 December], the revolutionary people of Torbat-Heydariyeh under the harsh conditions of the government of oppression and prior to the escape of the U.S. mercenary by offering 11 martyrs, pulled down the statue of the tyrant and neutralized the conspiracies and the propaganda of the agents of the oppressors, who declared the victory impossible.

By emphasizing the provision of food, housing, education, and employment for the self-sacrificers, he said: Now that the general insurance bill for the vulnerable strata has been ratified, health insurance for all the self-sacrificers must be given priority, so that at least in terms of treatment they are secure, and in the 1374 budget acceptable attention must be paid to their needs.

Referring to Agriculture Week and its importance, the speaker added: Today, we must not export our resources and mines in raw materials, like the Third World countries. Rather, by employing technology, we must turn them into various products in order to produce jobs, add value, and increase gross national production and non-oil exports.

Terming conversion industries important, he said: Despite the fact that the sugar factories of the region buy sugar beets at an insignificant price, even less than the price of pulp, the Economic Council should find a way to ensure that farmers do not suffer losses.

Referring to the high price of fodder and livestock drugs and the low price of animal husbandry products and lack of sufficient conversion industries that have caused the animal husbandry farmers to suffer losses, the deputy from Torbat-e Heydariyyeh added: Despite the domestic and foreign conspiratorial actions, the government has taken essential steps in the economy and in industry. In this connection, when Mr. Hashemi took charge of the Executive Branch of the country, he faced a 51-percent budget deficit. But now the government has been able to eliminate the budget deficit with its great work. Tavasolizadeh explained: The Islamic revolution of Iran is the greatest lesson to the people of the world and the greatest evidence for hope and overcoming problems. In conclusion, the speaker thanked the director general of physical education in Khorasan for holding the ancient athletic competitions and wrestling in honor of the anniversary of the martyrs of 9 Day in Torbat-e Heydariyyeh.

Lotfollah Zare'i-Qanavati, Deputy From Behbahan

The last pre-agenda speaker was Zare'i-Qanavati from Behbahan, who in his speech condemned the fascist crimes of Russia in Chechnya and asked the government to continue its fight against price hikers decisively and give no consideration in this regard.

He referred to Self-Sacrificers Week and said: Attending to the self-sacrificers requires national will and determination. All organizations and institutions must join hands to reduce their suffering, making use of the experiences of other countries. The Foundation for Self-Sacrificers, which has the responsibility for these dear ones, goes through their files every day and reduces their percentages. The salary paid to them is not sufficient for any of their needs. Their treatment situation must be such that they do not have to beg for it.

He referred to housing for self-sacrificers and said: How many self-sacrificers do we have in this country? This country has special conditions that can solve their housing problems immediately. Solve the issue of employment for the self-sacrificers. Do not allow those who are the source of pride for the society to be caught in the twists and turns of life in a way that they go begging officials to receive low-level jobs. Our dear ones must be able to stay in the cities, and the necessary facilities must be provided for them.

Referring to the unsuitable road from Behbahan to Ramhormoz and the occurrence of fatal accidents on it, he asked the officials of the Ministry of Roads and Transport to solve the problem of the above-mentioned road.

Ratifications

Omission of Attached Article of the Law on Satellite Prohibition

Ms. Fayyazbakhsh, in an internal bylaws reminder concerning the vote in the Majles, protested the attached article concerning satellite prohibition (this law will be implemented for a period of three years and if needed will be extended) and said in this connection:

In the previous meeting (on Sunday [1 January]), votes were taken on the suggestion of one of the brothers, which was to have the satellite prohibition for a period of three years. In fact, what is religiously prohibited is only prohibited for three years, and after three years it is no longer religiously prohibited. When this proposal was put to a vote, even though the chairman of the session (Dr. Ruhani) was hesitant and the secretaries of the session (two secretaries, Mr. Akrami and Mr. Shahrzad) also were hesitant, it was announced that the proposal was ratified. Considering that 25 deputies signed it and also protested the voting and asked for written ballot voting, we request that this proposal be put to a vote again.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri responded: According to Article 129 of the internal bylaws, if 25 deputies are hesitant, they must ask for a written ballot vote. The request that was given to Mr. Ruhani had only 21 signatories. Consequently, he could not act on it in accordance with the bylaws.

He then said: There is no doubt about the fact that 21 people signed it and the chairman of the session did not act on it. But in connection with the two secretaries who objected to the vote at that time, my question is, did these gentlemen protest at that time or not?

Dr. Shahrzad, one of the secretaries of the board of directors, pointed out in this connection: After the honorable Majles voted for the proposal, he (the chairman of the session) announced that it was ratified. Mr. Akrami and I said at that time that it was not ratified. (Mr. Bahonar was a witness to the event.) Engineer Bahonar said that the majority said it was ratified, and we continued the session accordingly and no longer said anything.

Addressing the Majles, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: Why did you not express your hesitation and have a discussion at that time, when Mr. Ruhani was presiding over the session?

Then Messrs. Akrami, Moradi, and Bahonar spoke in this connection. Mr. Nateq-Nuri said:

There is no doubt about two of the secretaries expressing doubt at the time of voting, and at this time we are only

discussing this matter. Hence, we must act on the basis of the bylaws and the proposal must be put to a vote again.

Then the attached article, "this law will be implemented for a period of three years and if needed will be extended," was put to a vote again. From 186 votes, there were 56 supporting and 94 opposing votes, and it was not ratified.

Selection of Two Deputies To Supervise the Session of the Health Services Insurance Supreme Council

The next item on the agenda of the Majles was the selection of two deputies as members of the Planning and Budget and Health and Welfare Committees to supervise the meeting of the National Health Services Insurance Supreme Council (in implementing Paragraph 12 of Article 3 of the national health services insurance law). Mr. Aminlu from the Health Committee, with 142 votes, and Mr. Rahbari-Amlashi from the Planning and Budget Committee, with 114, votes were elected.

Attaching a Paragraph to Note 55

The next item was a report on the second round of discussions of the Planning and Budget Committee in regard to the proposal to attach one paragraph to Note 55 of the 1373 national budget law, the single article of which was ratified.

Single article. The amount of 10 billion rials [R] from Paragraph 1 of Note 55 of the 1373 national budget bill (the current budget of Payam-e Nur University) is allocated.

Amendment of Paragraph "E" of the 1373 Budget Law

The third item on the agenda was a report on the second round of discussions of the Planning and Budget Committee in regard to the bill to amend Paragraph "E" of Note 3 of the 1373 national budget law, the single article of which was ratified by the deputies.

Single article. The phrase, "and cultural, artistic, cinematic, tourist, and athletic," is added after the phrase, "and agricultural, water, and land," in Paragraph "E" of Note 3 of the 1373 national budget law.

Amendment of Note 7 of the 1373 Budget

The next item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions of the Planning and Budget Committee in regard to the bill to amend Paragraph "E" of Note 7 of the 1373 national budget law, the single article of which was ratified by the Majles.

Single article. The following text replaces Paragraph "E" of Note 7 of the 1373 national budget law.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is granted permission in 1373, on the basis of Article 154 of the labor law, to collect R12,000 per person from all workshops subject to the labor law that are unable to take steps to create athletic, cultural, and recreational space in their workshops and deposit this amount into the general revenues account of the country in the General

Treasury, and 100 percent of the equivalent of the deposited funds shall be allocated to the above-mentioned ministry to be spent on the creation and expansion of athletic, cultural, and recreational places.

Bill on Collection of Certain Government Revenues

The next item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions of the Economic and Finance Affairs Committee concerning the bill on the collection of certain government revenues and their use in specific cases. The article was ratified.

Article 1

- A. The quotas cited in Paragraph A of Note 90 of the 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] national budget law in regard to the document recording tariffs are changed, respectively, from 15 per thousand to 30 per thousand and from 20 per thousand to 50 per thousand.

Note. Official document recording tariffs for contracts related to granting banking loans and social security to the cooperatives of self-sacrificers is set at three per thousand, and for production (industrial, agricultural, mining, housing, and construction) sectors, non-law enforcement educational institutions, and cultural activities (film production and building of theaters) are set at five per thousand.

- B. All the amounts of collectable recording expenditures cited in Paragraph C of Note 90 of the 1362 national budget law are increased to double those amounts.
- C. All the collectable amounts of recording fees cited in Paragraphs A, B, C, D, and E of Note 77 of the 1363 [21 March 1984- 20 March 1985] national budget law are increased by 50 percent.
- D. Registration fees for trademarks cited in Article 15 of the registration of trademarks and inventions ratified in Tir 1310 [22 June-22 July 1931] shall be collected as follows:
 1. Registration fee for trademark for Iranian applicants, without calculating the price of the form, R12,000,
 2. Registration fee for trademarks for non-Iranian applicants, without calculating the price of the form, R100,000.
 3. Registration fees for trademarks regardless of the number of categories of the product, for Iranian applicants strictly R28,000.
 4. Registration fees for trademarks regardless of the number of categories of the product for Iranian applicants, strictly R1.2 million.
 5. For every category of product, even if it is unique, for any additional category, for Iranian applicants, in addition to the registration fee for the declaration and registration fee for the trademark, R5,000.

6. For every category of product, even if it is unique, for any additional category, for non-Iranian applicants, in addition to the registration fee for the declaration and registration fee for the trademark, R30,000.
7. Registration fees for transactions and transfers related to trademarks shall be in accordance with the official documents registration fee tariffs.

[Passage E. omitted as published]

F. Registration fees for inventions cited in Articles 32, 34, 41, and 43 of the law of registration of trademarks and inventions and the implemental bylaws of the law amending Note 56 of the 1352 [21 March 1973-20 March 1974] amended budget law and 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975] national budget and the ratification on 01/09/1365 [22 November 1986] of Articles 47 and 66 of the amended bylaws of the law on the registration of trademarks and inventions are determined as follows.

1. Registration fees for inventions for non-Iranian applicants, without the calculation of the fee for the form, R25,000.
2. Registration fees for inventions for non-Iranian applicants in the first 10 years, in addition to regular registration fees, R200,000.

G. Registration fees for any trademark cited in Article 121 of the registration law and the implemental bylaws of the amending law of Note 56 of the 1342 [21 March 1963-20 March 1964] amended budget law and the 1353 national budget law ratified on 18/09/1365 [9 December 1986] by the Majles, without calculating the fee for the application form, R40,000 for each trademark.

H. The cost of cataloging cited in Article 150 attached to the record law ratified on 18/10/1351 [8 January 1973] and Paragraph W of Note 90 of the 1362 national budget law, at R200 for every R10,000.

I. Article 124 of the registration law and Note 2 of Article 50 of the law of official records affairs and the law of office directors and office assistants ratified in Tir 1354 [22 June-22 July 1975] are amended as follows.

1. For registration of documents, if the fees for the subject cannot be determined, the registration fee for each document shall be R50,000.
2. Registration fee for the cancellation or rescinding of transactions or statement of collection of a part of the funds of the transaction, R200.
3. For verifications that are received from the Office of Records, R1,000 per verification.
4. For duplicate copies of ownership deeds, in addition to the price of the booklet, R500.

J. Article 132 of the records law is amended as follows:

1. For verification of authenticity of every signature, strictly R500.
2. Tariffs on the cost of preparation of duplicates of blueprints and verification of the authenticity of the blueprints cited in Article 61 of the records law shall be on the basis of bylaws to be approved by the head of the Judicial Branch.

K. The implemental fees for mandatory documents cited in Article 131 of the records law is set at 5 percent of the amount that is implemented.

L. The fees for auctions cited in Article 10 of the amended bylaws of the procedures for collecting the revenues from auctions and instances of their use ratified on 21/12/1331 [12 March 1953] is determined as follows.

1. In regard to movable property, 6 percent.
2. In regard to stationary property, of R1-10,000, 6 percent, and of R10,001 and higher, 4 percent.
3. Wages for auctioneer for sales of up to R100,000, 10 percent of 100 percent of the collected auction fees.
4. Wages for auctioneer for sales of R100,001-200,000, for the amount of sale over R100,000, 1/60 based on 100 percent of the collected auction fees.
5. Wages for auctioneer for sales of R200,001 and above, for the amount exceeding R200,000, 1 percent, on the basis of 100 percent of the collected auction fees.

[Passages M and N omitted as published]

O. For registration of property in the property offices cited in Articles 11, 12, and 119 of the registration law, on the whole, for every R10,000, R1,000 will be collected. The basis for calculation of the registration fees for property shall be at least the regional price and, in areas where a regional price has not been determined, based on the assessment form of the Office of Records.

P. The basis for collection of registration fees cited in this article, in regard to properties is the announced transactional value by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and in areas in which the transactional value is not determined, based on the assessment sheet of the Office of Records.

Q. Tariffs established in Articles 1 and 2 of this law and its notes shall consist of the preliminary costs and all the additions and fines that are established in other articles of the law on documents and property registration and other laws and shall replace them, and from the date of the implementation of this law no other registration fees and preliminary costs, fines, and other additions shall be collected under any name in regard to the instances stated in this law. All regulations contrary to Articles 1 and 2 of the law are nullified.

Procedures To Examine the National Budget Bill

The last item on the agenda was the proposal on the procedures to examine the national budget bill, which was discussed as very urgent.

Explaining this proposal, 'Abbasi said: The bylaws that are used at the present have created certain problems and ambiguities. Continuation of the examination of the budget on the basis of the internal bylaws of the Majles repeats the problems of the previous year. In addition, the rights of some deputies are ignored.

He then said: The previous bylaws for the procedures to examine the budget bill were better than these bylaws. We believe that the examination of the budget bill in the form of one round of discussions will be better than this ratification. Hence, let us return to the previous bylaws.

After the opposing and supporting speeches, the very urgent priority level of the proposal was put to a vote and was not ratified.

On the Margins of the Majles**Omission of "the Period of Three Years" From the Law on Satellite Prohibition**

In regard to the voting by ballot concerning the period of trial implementation of the proposal prohibiting the use of satellite programs, Engineer Yahyavi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Majles, told our reporter: According to the bylaws of the Majles, if in counting the votes, 25 deputies or two secretaries of the Majles are in doubt, voting is done by ballot. In the article attached to the proposal of the prohibition on satellite programs, which was ratified in the open session on Sunday, the period of implementation was mentioned as three years. After the announcement of voting in the past session, on Tuesday [3 January], 21 deputies wrote a letter and signed it, whereas in accordance with the bylaws, 25 deputies should have signed it.

The chairman of the session on Sunday had announced that voting had ended and there was no need to take a vote by ballot. In the open session on Wednesday, a large number of deputies engaged in various discussions, and the speaker of the Majles questioned two of the secretaries of the Majles (Messrs. Shahrzad and Akrami). Because the gentlemen were still in doubt, in accordance with the bylaws, it was decided that a vote be taken again by ballot, and the result of the voting was that in the proposal on the prohibition of satellite reception equipment, the period of implementation, which was announced to be three years, will be implemented permanently.

Reciting the Koran by the Speaker of the Majles

The open session of the Majles always begins with recitation of the Koran, and usually one of the reciters comes to the Majles for this purpose.

In yesterday's session, because the reciter was not present, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, the speaker of the Majles, recited from the Koran, which was enthusiastically welcomed by the deputies.

10 Jan 95

95LA0099A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
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[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding. The deputies from the cities of Abhar, Neyriz, Razan, and Varamin made pre-agenda speeches. Then the Majles went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

Fazel Amirjahani, Deputy From Abhar

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Amirjahani from Abhar, who said: The totality of the Islamic regime is one of the greatest divine gifts. The survival and expansion of every gift depends on one's appreciation of it. One of the best features of appreciation is preservation of the basic principles of Islam and serving the beloved people of the country sincerely.

Referring to the efforts of the government to carry out fundamental projects in such areas as industry and agriculture, he added: Nevertheless, the numerous problems of the people must not be overshadowed by the service rendered and be forgotten.

Stating that the government must continue its struggle to solve the critical problems of the people, such as the sinister problem of high prices and price hiking, the speaker added: The danger of the officials suffering from indifference, flattery, and insincere praise, and the inordinate interest in worldly matters is no less than that of the corrupt Western culture.

The deputy from Abhar emphasized: The people want a kind of development that is coupled with consideration for the poor and vulnerable strata, and not at the price of humiliating and distorting human dignity, or, for that matter, the dignity of the noble ghetto dwellers whom the Imam loved during his blessed life.

In continuation, thanking the president for the attention given to the budget deficit of the Ministry of Education this year, Amirjahani added: The Ministry of Education is expected to revise its collection of money and aid from students, because a number of people do not have the ability to give the slightest amount of aid.

Referring to the attention given to the salaries of the teachers of the country's elementary schools, the deputy from Abhar explained: I hope in the bill that the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization of the country has devised and will present to the Majles for

salary earners [as published], there will be a solution for the above-mentioned cases and others.

In conclusion, the speaker reminded the minister of energy about the agricultural water facilities of Abhar and the project to build a dam in the region; the minister of roads and transport about the transfer of the asphalt factory and completion of the Sharifabad, Abhar, and Khorramdarreh loop roads; the minister of petroleum about the natural gas outreach to Soltaniyyeh and Sharifabad; and the minister of health and treatment about the completion of the Abhar and Khorramdarreh hospitals and treatment centers.

Khalil Dadvar, Deputy From Neyriz

The next speaker was Dadvar from Neyriz, who thanked the government for solving the problem of high prices and controlling prices, which has pleased the noble and grateful people, and said: In the years after the revolution, when the brave, self-sacrificing children were engaged in sacred defense, a group failing to heed the values of the revolution greedily engaged in collecting and plundering property and now, too, continues its course. It is necessary that in a revolutionary movement the Majles and the government, by ratifying and implementing the law of "where did you get it," summon all those who under any title and position have gained enormous, illegitimate wealth to account for it, in order to ensure the return of that which has been unjustly taken from the oppressed.

He emphasized: Why should there not be accountability for all the officials, including the ministers, deputies, governors general, general managers and directors, large and small contractors, employers, and businessmen? In this climate of skepticism and accusation, which has escalated with the inculcation of the alert enemies and unaware friends, the good is not distinguished from the bad.

Emphasizing the need for careful supervision of the offices, departments, and ministries in order to honor the committed and suffering individuals, the deputy from Neyriz added: The lack of jobs and employment for a large stratum of the young and talented forces and the modification of manpower in factories and organizations are such that, if today we face the problems of unemployed high school graduates, tomorrow we will have to answer to 10s of thousands of unemployed college graduates, who mostly have degrees from the Open University and claim that they have paid an exorbitant price to obtain their degrees and, for that matter, in a field that is not useful for anything, even for the Open University itself.

Pointing out that the Majles ratifies a budget of approximately 100 trillion rials [R] without any serious and careful supervision over its spending, the speaker said: Religiously and legally, it must oversee every rial of it to the end in order to make sure that it has the best return.

In continuation, Dadvar added: The Accounting Office, which is the only auditing establishment, confesses itself that it has not been able to make most of the government companies present their accounts.

In conclusion, the deputy from Neyriz reminded the minister of energy about the completion of the electricity outreach projects in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], the head of the Martyrs Foundation about paying attention to the families of the martyrs of the city of Neyriz, and the minister of mines and metals about the investigation of the operation of the Sangab Company.

Mohammad Mofatteh, Deputy From Razan

The next speaker was Mofatteh from Razan, who said: The constituency of the city of Razan has deprived people, and even though since the revolution they have tasted the sweetness of the attention of the officials in regard to their deprivation and have enjoyed water, electricity, roads, communication, etc., the deprivation and poverty are widespread in this region. And still there are many among the three cities and 300 villages in the area that have no electricity and suitable roads.

In continuation, he added: There are many children, women, and men who due to the lack of safe drinking water suffer from various kinds of diseases.

Pointing out that there are many innocent children and youths who are deprived of continuing their education at the middle school and high school levels, the speaker said: There are patients who must travel many kilometers for access to a doctor and the simplest of medicines, and they have no health treatment centers or doctors.

The deputy from Razan referred to the extent of deprivation in his constituency and said: The Ministry of Interior, by raising the status of the city of Razan from a district to a governorate, has taken an essential step in the development of the city. Famenin District deserves to be raised to the status of a county as well.

In continuation, he reminded the minister of roads about the creation of traffic safety for the people on the Hamadan-Savel-Tekistan road; the Plan and Budget Organization about the failure to make an allocation in the budget for the construction of the Famenin Hospital in a timely manner; the minister of petroleum about the natural gas outreach to Qorveh, Jazin, and Razan; the minister of agriculture about the appropriate distribution of chemical fertilizer; the minister of jihad about expediting the asphalt application to the Qorveh-Omidyiyeh road and about the installation of a safe drinking water pipe; and the minister of education about the unpleasant condition of education and the educational decline.

The deputy from Razan emphasized: One of the most important missions of the government is to play a significant role in the growth of production as well as in the just collection of taxes from all economic sectors.

But, unfortunately, the economic code under the present conditions places most of the pressure on the backs of industry and production.

Mohammad Qomi, Deputy From Varamin

The last pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Qomi from Varamin. He praised the bravery of the guards of religious guardianship, Martyr Sattari and his other friends, and said: The pigeons of the sacred shrine and lovers of the abode of God, Martyr Sattari, Martyr Ardestani, and the other fellow combatants, join God. The grand leader of the revolution and the Islamic people of Iran, particularly the martyr-nurturing people of Varamin, are these days mourning the loss of the sincere commanders and soldiers.

He added: Martyrs Sattari and Ardestani have risen from the 15 Khordad [5 June] martyr-nurturing Varamin and made a covenant with God to be steadfast in the perpetuation of the memory of the blood of the innocent martyrs of 15 Khordad.

The deputy from Varamin thanked all those who participated in the funeral procession of Martyr Ardestani. He offered his condolences on the martyrdom of these great men of Islam to the Imam of the Age, the grand leader, the martyr-nurturing nation, and the grand families of the martyrs.

Question to Minister of Finance Concerning Embezzlement in Several Saderat Bank Branches

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the question by Messrs. Astaneh and Sobhanollahi, deputies of Sarband of Arak and Tabriz, asked of Mohammad Khan, the minister of economic affairs and finance, regarding embezzlement and misuse in several Saderat Bank branches.

Astaneh stated the questions as follows:

1. The issue and cause of embezzlement: How and how much was the misuse and fraud in Branches 207 and 2616 of the Saderat Bank of Iran? What factors were involved in this violation?
2. Who were the owners of account nos. 1446, 1970, 1648, 2000, and 3013 in Branch 207 in Tajrish and the head of Branch 3616 of Shahid Hadipur? How much did they illegally withdraw? From what date did the illegal withdrawals take place? How has such plunder of the Treasury negatively affected the national economy?
3. What activities have the above-mentioned people pursued with the money obtained, and why have they not created a disruption in the foreign currency, monetary, and banking system of the country?
4. Considering that the crime and its discovery occurred in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], what is the reason for keeping it secret?

5. What steps have been taken to collect the rights of the Treasury and administratively and penally prosecute the violators?

6. What plans do you have to prevent the repetition of such incidents?

The deputy from Sarband of Arak then said: The main problem occurred during the time of the previous minister of economic affairs and finance (Mohsen Nurba-khsh). In short, some elements conspired from outside and inside the bank and succeeded in cashing 541 forged checks and checks without having any money in the bank and embezzled billions of tumans.

Response of the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance

In response to the questions of the deputies, Mr. Mohammad Khan said: The question has been under investigation by the related organizations and judicial authorities for over a year. About three months ago, the whole issue was examined by a group composed of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, members of the Saderat Bank, the General Inspection Office of the country, the Ministry of Information, and the deputy prosecutor of Tehran in a meeting of the Articles 88 and 90 Committee of the Majles. The brothers in the committee gave the necessary directives, and it was decided that until it reached sufficient results, work on this case would proceed as it had so far. One month later, we realized that some deputies had raised a question in order to inform the Majles deputies about the matter.

He then added: In 1371, in one of the Saderat Bank branches, the person who was in charge of coded checks conspired with two customers who were involved in fraud and in the course of 10 months deposited 541 checks in the accounts. The bank officials would pay the money prior to cashing the checks, and the money was deposited in three to eight days. In terms of the banking system, this was a violation in regard to ordinary cases.

Stating that he was not trying to defend the violators, Mohammad Khan said: As an official, I try to ensure that there is not even one rial in violation in the whole ministry and deal with it. He also pointed out: Every month the activities of the banks are examined by inspectors. In the course of the two months, during which these people continued their operations, there was no violation noticed, because during that period the money was returned to the bank. In Bahman 1371 [21 January-19 February 1993], the bank treasurer realized that the accounts did not seem to match and upon examining them noticed that the owner of account no. 2000 in the Tajrish Branch had a deficit of 6.5 billion tumans. They immediately summoned the owner of the account and realized that he had fled the country. The bank management informed the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance in writing. At that time, it was decided that the management must accept the risk and secretly coax the owner of the account into the country.

or identify available funds that could be appropriated. In this connection, the related ministry cooperated with the Ministry of Information, found the party abroad, and after long negotiations got him to agree to return to the country. When he returned, within one month, he returned R41 billion to the bank, and the bank was negotiating to identify any movable or stationary property he had to return to the bank. In this regard, the Prosecutor's Office entered the case and sent a warrant and summons to this gentleman. Even though this gentleman was prohibited by this ministry and the Ministry of Information from leaving the country, he fled abroad for a second time. This time again, we and the Ministry of Information found him and after one year of negotiations had him return again. At the present time, he is in the country and under the supervision of the Ministry of Information and the Prosecutor's Office. So far, twice the amount of the violation has been identified in property belonging to him, which is being transferred with the help of the Judicial Branch. Fortunately, no regulation of the banking system has been violated, and with the help of all organizations, thank God, these funds are being converted.

In regard to the other violations, he said: After these events, the inspectors of the banks sent agents to all the banks to investigate all the accounts. During this period, they came across one of the Saderat Bank branches, the Hadipur Branch, in which similar operations had taken place. By identifying the account, they realized that 1.5 billion tumans had been embezzled and misused in the second operation, and this treasonous act was done by the head of the branches of this bank. All those who conspired and committed treason in the banking system in this connection have been identified and dismissed by the Office of Administrative Violations, and all are in detention and under the supervision of the Prosecutor General's Office.

He also said: Other than the 1.5 billion tuman case, a great deal of chinaware belonging to this gentleman remains, which is half of the amount that has yet to be received, and the remainder is being identified.

Then, in response to other questions, Mohammad Khan said: As to how many conspired in the first operation, there were two persons, one of whom was the director of the branch, and the other consisted of a husband and wife who used the same system. When the crime was discovered, they had no debt to the bank, but the fines were set for them through the bank. They paid the fines, and those two were identified to the Prosecutor's Office. As to what they did with the funds—some was converted to property and real estate, which I will read for you: one 18-story tower in the Farmaniyyeh area, with 15,400 sq meters in superstructure, at a value of 1.5 billion tumans; a residential complex on Fereshteh [Street], with 24,000 sq meters, at a value of 100 million tumans; a plot of land on Afriqa Street, at a value of 450 million tumans. In total, twice the amount that he owes was identified in property and at the present is being transferred to the banking system.

He then pointed out: The fact that the crime occurred in the banking system is interpreted as a weakness in the bank. But in practice, it was treason committed by two officials of the bank, in both cases, by changing ordinary checks to coded checks. Both of these officials are in prison, and it is hoped that the Judicial Branch will deal with them seriously. Fortunately, in these two cases, no right of the banking system of the Treasury has been violated.

Astaneh's Question Once Again

Mr. Astaneh repeated: How is it that the martyr-nurturing people submit to all sorts of laws and regulations for banking loans, even for 100,000 tumans, while at the same time a number of profiteers, violating all the determined standards, gain billions of tumans in wealth?

He added: Can this injustice be tolerated? The total figure in Note 3 of the 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] budget was 35 billion tumans, and the figure that these violators, who I say are five persons, illegally withdrew in 541 instances is over 123.9 billion tumans. At the time of the discovery, 6.5 billion tumans of it had not been collected, and they realized that it was missing. All of the explanation of his excellency the minister was merely a description of these events.

Astaneh continued: What factors combined to enable a group of opportunists to succeed in making so much in illegal withdrawals in less than one year? What kind of supervision and control is this?

He added: He says that the officials have been informed of the matter. I have documents showing that it was not until a pure Hezbollahi appeared and wrote a letter to the officials that such embezzlement had taken place in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] that the matter was referred to the proper authorities and a general inspection of the accounts followed. The former economics minister was informed about it a month later.

Astaneh continued: I have documents here. I will comply with the reminder of the speaker of the Majles concerning the instances he mentioned prior to the open session. There is a letter that has come and is dated late 1372. In it, the interrogator in fact makes an indictment, stating: Report to me on what happened, based on the Inspection Organization report. Then the general manager of the bank will respond to the judicial authorities in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995].

He continued: I say, if this case had not been reported by the faithful Hezbollahi individuals and unknown soldiers of the Imam of the Age, would this issue actually have been prosecuted properly by the appropriate authorities?

Sarband's deputy stated, who must examine the economic and chaotic situation of the banking system? If there are any elements in the bank who helped, they must be renounced, like the security [personnel] at that time

and individuals who cooperated. They must be relieved of their positions one by one.

He emphasized: The date of the start of the embezzlement is early 1371, and the crime was discovered on 13/11/1371 [2 February 1993], but the auditor of the bank examined the matter in Tir 1372 [22 June-22 July 1993]. If the offender believes that he will be punished for the slightest offense, many of the crimes on all levels will decrease, Astaneh said: When this occurred, a group gathered in the office of the general manager. It is very interesting. In this gathering, the violators, the officials of the bank, and other officials were present. Well, these gentlemen came and felt secure that now they had done something and could come and go freely, bargain, engage in discussions, and finally reach some sort of understanding. They said: In order to prohibit the exit from the country of the gentleman and the bank employees, we pursued the matter through the security of one of the foundations. Does this country have no laws, so that a foundation has to prohibit exit?

Referring to the answer of the minister of economic affairs in connection with the manner of payment, he said: I have evidence that they engaged in secret actions and did so for more than a year, and 6.5 billion tumans of the people's deposits have been placed at the disposal of a bunch of plunderers. The last dates of collection for these are Azar 1373 [22 November-21 December 1994]. Still, there is no security for 2-3 billion tumans in the funds of this embezzlement case.

In continuation, Astaneh referred to the letter of the president to his special inspector and added: The president writes in this letter: The figure is very large. Why have the upper-level officials not noticed it, and if they have, why have they not reported it? (Dated 18/05/1373 [9 August 1994].)

After the statements of Astaneh and the unsatisfactory response of the minister, the question was referred to the Articles 88 and 90 Committee for examination.

Ratification

Bill on Collection of Certain Government Revenues

The second item on the agenda was the continuation of the examination of the bill, and its amendments, on the collection of certain government revenues and their use in specific cases. Four other articles of the bill were ratified by the Majles.

Article 4

B. The Ministries of Education and Culture and Higher Education, the Technical and Vocational Training Organization of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and the Welfare Organization are responsible for the repair, completion, numbering, and use of the machinery and parts delivered that are named in this article or for taking steps to sell them in accordance with the regulations and deposit the funds obtained in the general revenue account of the country.

The equivalent of 100 percent of the above-mentioned deposited amounts from funds that will be included every year for this purpose in the budget law shall be placed accordingly at the disposal of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, the Technical and Vocational Training Organization, and the Welfare Organization to be spent on self-sufficiency, improvement, and raising the level of scientific, technical, and vocational training and equipping related training units.

Article 5. Permission is granted:

- A. To the ministries and government organizations to sell their old and unusable buildings in accordance with regulations and to deposit the funds in the general revenue account of the country. The equivalent of 100 percent of the above-mentioned deposited amounts from funds that will be included for this purpose in the budget law every year shall be placed accordingly at the disposal of the related ministries and government organizations to be spent on the construction of suitable buildings for offices.
- B. To the ministries and government establishments to sell their lands and real estate that in terms of location or for other reasons are not suitable for use, obtaining permission from the Cabinet and observing the related regulations, and to deposit the funds obtained in the general revenue account of the country. The equivalent of 100 percent of the above-mentioned deposited amounts will be included in the budget law every year to be placed with the approval of the Cabinet at the disposal of related ministries and government establishments accordingly in order to be spent on purchasing land and creating necessary suitable buildings and facilities for these organizations.
- C. To the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, after obtaining permission from the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, to take steps to sell the land and superstructures of barracks and other places that are in its legal possession (after proving ownership) and are within the limits of city services through bidding.

The National Records Organization is responsible for taking steps to issue ownership deeds for the lands and receiving only 20 percent of related legal fees and taxes. The Committee on Article 5 of the Law on the Establishment of the Supreme Council of Urban Development and Architecture of Iran and the City Halls are responsible for taking steps in regard to changing such lands to ensure proper use and also issuing building permits.

The revenues obtained will all be deposited in the General Treasury, and 100 percent of the deposited funds will be considered allocated from the funds that will be anticipated for this purpose every year in the budget law and placed at the disposal of the Central Headquarters of the Armed Forces to be spent on the construction of barracks, military centers, and organizational housing and the payment of debts, on the basis of priorities determined by the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

Article 6. The Ministry of Education is granted permission to deposit funds obtained from offering services for cultural, artistic, athletic, and production activities of the educational centers of the training camps in the general revenue account of the country. The equivalent of 100 percent of the above-mentioned deposited amounts from the funds that will be included in the budget for this purpose every year will be placed at the disposal of the above-mentioned ministry to be spent on repair, maintenance, reconstruction, and equipment of the above-mentioned camps and centers and athletic centers and the development and expansion of cultural, artistic, and athletic activities.

The implemental bylaws of this article, including the related service tariffs, will be suggested by the Ministry of Education and approved by the Cabinet.

Article 7. The Ministry of Education is granted permission:

- A. To sell its old unusable schools and buildings in the cities and villages or to improve them so that they are suitable for use and sell them.
- B. To temporarily lease its educational places and spaces during times that they are not in use for educational uses through contracts.

The revenues obtained from the above-mentioned paragraphs will be deposited in the general revenue account of the country. The equivalent of 100 percent of the above-mentioned deposited amounts from the funds that will be included in the national budget law will be placed at the disposal of the above-mentioned ministry to be spent on building and equipping elementary, middle, and high schools and payment of installments on leasing contracts with the banks, with the option to buy, for the purchase of educational buildings. That group of buildings cited in this article that are in the possession of the Ministry of Education and lack official ownership deeds will be sold outside of the Records Office regulations.

The continuation of the examination of this bill was postponed to the next day's session. In this session, the proposal on extension of the general laws to organizations that are subject to particular laws was announced as having been received.

On the Margins of the Majles

Opinion of the General Manager of Saderat Bank Concerning Embezzlement

Yesterday, the question of two deputies to the minister of economic affairs and finance concerning embezzlement in the Saderat Bank was discussed in the Majles.

It must be mentioned that the newspaper also defends serious dealing with violations and violators at any level, group, or position and considers it effective in preserving the dignity of the Islamic society. Violations in financial matters, especially with regard to the banks, must be acted upon more rapidly and decisively, so that we no longer witness such embezzlement and misuse in financial issues

in the government organizations and banks. In yesterday's session, the minister of finance responded to the question of the deputy from Sarband. In this connection, the general manager of Saderat Bank also told our correspondent concerning the issues discussed: With regard to the misused amount that the bank was informed about, with the close cooperation of the Ministry of Information, the issue was investigated in a calculated manner. At the present time, the file concerning this matter is being thoughtfully discussed in the Prosecutor's Office of Tehran. In the Article 90 Committee, too, it has been discussed. At the present time, the situation is that the amounts owed to the bank, the damages, and the ratified fines set for the amounts misused have been secured from the confiscated property, and twice the remaining amount exists in identified property, which we are transferring to the bank's name. In Branch 207, the employee of the branch, and in Martyr Hadipur Branch, the head of the branch were the main guilty persons, both of whom are now in prison. After the judicial process is complete, the final ruling will be issued.

Engineer Yusefzadeh added: The bank's systems are manual, and the automation of operations has begun in recent years. This work is being done gradually, and once the computer system is fully implemented, special tools and equipment will be placed at the disposal of the bank management, so that the manager can have more precise supervision over his operation. One of the issues that can be effective in preventing such problems is the law on investigation of the administrative violations of banks. Now, the managers of banks have no special authority to deal with violations. Given that the activities of banks are different from those of other organizations, a special law is required to ensure more decisiveness and speed in dealing with violators and to reduce to a minimum the possibility of a crime's being started and committed to a minimum.

He said: Previously, this issue was discussed in the Article 90 Committee and the Economic Affairs and Finance Committee in the presence of Mr. Astaneh. A kind of approach and procedure for pursuing the collection of the debts with a method that could achieve results has been presented, because if at the time of the discovery of the crime hasty steps had been taken, the question of the collection of funds might not have come up. The total amount of misuse at the moment of discovery was 6.5 billion tumans, and the entire amount has been collected.

Question of Mr. Kuhkan to the Minister of Guidance

In yesterday's session of the Majles, it was announced that the question Mr. Kuhkan asked of the minister of Islamic guidance—which was referred to the Guidance Committee and was not considered satisfactory—was received and that it would be discussed in next week's open session. Mr. Kuhkan's question concerns the illegality of the publication of HAMSHAHRI newspaper, which belongs to Tehran City Hall.

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[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Dr. Hasan Rowhani, and the deputies from Zabol, Dehloran, Khorramshahr, and Tehran gave pre-agenda speeches. Then Dr. Rowhani gave a short speech offering condolences on the death of Engineer Bazargan. Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the details of the proceedings.

Deputy Speaker's Remarks

At yesterday morning's open Majles session, Dr. Hasan Rowhani gave a speech in which he offered condolences on the death of Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, and discussed his learned and cultured character.

He said: Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, prime minister of the interim government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was one of the nation's learned and cultured public figures. He was a leader in discussing Islamic and scientific issues in the universities, and was a prominent opponent of the oppressive monarchy. May his memory be revered.

Seyyed Hasan Hoseyni Tabataba'i, Deputy From Zabol.

There are many objections to the heavy projects being implemented by the Ministry of Energy in Sistan.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Hoseyni, deputy from Zabol. In his speech he discussed the outstanding welcome the people of the Sistan region gave to the president of the republic during his recent trip to the region, and he called for an extensive turnout for the celebration of the triumph of the revolution.

He then said: Delivering water from Zabol to Zahedan, at the tremendous estimated cost of more than 300 billion rials [R], will lay waste to this region, first of all because in view of the Just Water Distribution Law, under which priority must be given to drinking water for the cities during water shortages, Sistan will be even more beset by this problem, and they will ignore the real task of procuring water for the center of the Province of Zahedan.

The deputy from Zahedan then discussed the protests against the Ministry of Energy's heavy projects in Sistan. He said: I met with Mr. Mirhoseyni and a group of experts to make a comprehensive assessment of the proposed and in-progress projects. According to my recommendations and the orders of the Majles speaker, the chief of the Energy Commission and his delegation visited the region and the projects. They were to provide the aforementioned expert group with documents and reports to examine on the study of the projects. Yet despite the orders from the Energy Commission and our persistent concern, so far no reports have been given to

us by the Ministry of Energy and the aforementioned group of experts, and the relevant officials have said that the reports and documents are secret.

Yet all the reports have been given to the World Bank.

He continued: How is it that the experts from the World Bank are initiated into this information, but the deputies from the Majles and its expert group are not? The Ministry of Energy is sure that the numerous objections to the projects that have been carried out and are currently underway, as well as the proposal awaiting approval, are valid, and that the submission of the relevant reports by the experts will raise questions for which it will not have answers. Therefore, they are waiting out the rest of the current deputy term of office by not turning in the reports.

Hoseyni discussed wind-driven energy production. He said: In a study done on the edge of Iran's desert regions, especially in Zabol, with its 120 days of seasonal winds, it became clear that this region, with an average of 27 km per hour in the summer and 17 km per hour in the winter and an annual average of 22.5 km per hour, is the best place to use wind turbines.

Seyyed Mohammad Hasani, Deputy From Dehloran

The recent flood in the Province of Ilam caused more than 4 billion tumans in damages, and the people have received no help except a small amount in loans.

The next speaker was Hasani, deputy from Dehloran. During his speech he offered congratulations on the arrival of the blessed month of Ramazan and the Ten Days Dawn Celebration. He said: Now that the First Five-Year Development Plan has ended successfully and the Second Five-Year Plan has also been approved through the efforts of the government's experts and the Majles, those doing the nation's basic and overall planning are expected to take into account the positive and negative points in the plan's previous implementation. The experts must analyze and study the executive problems of the organizations implementing the plan realistically and without any kind of prejudice. They must strive and make efforts to implement reforms in the future.

He emphasized the need to present a model of social justice to the people of the world. He said: We must make sure that privatization and public participation in economic development does not pave the way for profiteers and opportunists to obtain incomes that come from nowhere through any means or in any way, creating severe class conflicts among the people.

He discussed the need for the government and the Majles to anchor inflation. He said: I ask all those involved in administering government penalties and in the judiciary to start executive organizations and to be completely serious about fighting this social problem so that economic stability will prevail in the country.

Another important issue is amending the administrative structure and activating the nation's executive organizations. Despite the fact that there are numerous administrative organizations in the nation, there are also incompetent elements who shirk and obstruct the performance of duty. By putting relationships ahead of regulation, abusing their employment positions and creating dissatisfaction, they undermine the efforts of the *toiling government as a whole and prevent all the fruits of the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran from being manifested as they truly are.* These people will be serious obstacles in the path of the revolution.

Hasani discussed the situation in the Province of Ilam and the damage done to it during the imposed war, and he called upon the government to allocate the needed credits to the province.

He emphasized the need to develop higher education in Ilam. He said: So far the Free Islamic University has not opened even one educational unit in the entire province. I call upon the president of the republic and the officials involved to give the necessary attention to this matter.

He added: In the recent flood in Ilam about 4.28 billion tumans in damage was done to the cities, roads and bridges. So far no help has been given to the people except a small amount in loans.

Yunes Mohammadi, Deputy From Khorramshahr

In order to rebuild Khorramshahr, 1.2 billion tumans was approved, but so far the Plan and Budget Organization has allocated only 700 million tumans of that money.

Another pre-agenda speaker was Mohammadi, deputy from Khorramshahr. During his speech he commemorated the arrival of the Ten Days Dawn Celebration and discussed various dimensions of the Islamic revolution. He said: Since the beginning of the triumph of the Islamic revolution, thanks to the efforts of the Majles and the government and especially the president of the republic, the shortcomings of the past have been redressed in many areas, and we ourselves have alleviated many needs and shortages. Of course we must act in such a way that we do not knowingly or unknowingly bring about what the enemy is hoping for.

The speaker discussed the crimes committed against the oppressed people of Bosnia and Chechnya. He discussed the problems and difficulties in his electoral district. He noted: Everyone knows that a city that was flattened to the ground by the hostile fire of the enemies of the Islamic revolution has many problems, but unfortunately our friends do not permit most of these problems to be solved. For example, to rebuild the installations at Bandar Khorramshahr, which is of vital importance, this year 1.2 billion tumans has been allocated, but so far, 10 months into the year, the Plan and Budget Organization has allocated only 700 million tumans of that money.

He added: The hard-working agents and officials at the port office have even planned with concern based on the approved budget, but the work is at a standstill due to the lack of credits. To rebuild the electrical power network in the war-stricken areas of the Province of Khuzestan, 930 million tumans was approved, of which the Plan and Budget Organization has so far allocated only 40 percent. This organization is acting like this with the rest of the credits also. Why should it be this way?

In approving and allocating the annual budgets, the Plan and Budget Organization drops all the hammers on the reconstruction credits.

He explained: The president of the republic does not pay any rials to the war-stricken areas out of national and development credits. Everyone is depending on the small amounts of reconstruction credits, and the Plan and Budget Organization doles those out a drop at a time. How are the war-stricken cities going to be rebuilt in three more years? The electrical power networks in the regions also have not been rebuilt.

Mohammadi then addressed the Ministry of the Construction Jihad. He said: Last year's credits for dredging Bahman Shir were 700 million tumans, 600 million tumans of which was given back. This year also not one rial has been spent out of some 500 million tumans.

The dredging of Bahman Shir will solve many of the water problems in Khorramshahr and Abadan. With what power and resources will the people rebuild their date orchards?

Continuing, the speaker said the basic problem in Khorramshahr is economic. He said: The economy of Khorramshahr is dependent on development credits, and if these are cut one day the city will be paralyzed. The economy of Khorramshahr has disappeared and must be rebuilt. Unemployment and high prices are tormenting the people. Making the Port of Khorramshahr a free port could give new life to Khorramshahr's economy.

Noting that last year's school dropout rate was between 50 and 69 percent, he called upon all the ministries to pay attention to this city and deal with its problems.

'Ali Movahedi-Saveji, Deputy From Tehran

I ask the exalted leader of the revolution to allow his scholarly treatise to be printed in Persian at the personal expense of individuals.

The final speaker at today's session was 'Ali Movahedi-Saveji, deputy from Tehran. He discussed the issue of source of emulation in Islam, and the world of Shiism. He said: Praise God, during the entire time of the occultation of His Holiness, may God preserve him, the world of Islam, Shiism and the seminaries of Imam Baqer and Imam Sadeq, peace be upon them, have been filled with knowledge, understanding, research, theology

and independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence. In this regard there has never been any lack or gap.

The exalted leader of the Islamic revolution His Holiness Ayatollah al-'Ozma Khamene'i has spoken on the grandeur of Islam and Shiism and on the vitality and vigor of the seminaries. He said that until the Imam of the Age appears the world of Islam and Shiism will never be without just and fully qualified leaders who have independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence. He said that right now there are at least 100 people with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence who may be emulated at Qom Seminary. The reality is that there are hundreds of people with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence in the seminaries and in the Islamic countries.

I say to the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution and the source of emulation of the Shiites is that there are many people who, because of their interest in you, voluntarily and at their own expense would like to print His Excellency's religious decrees, not out of the government's budget and not out of religious funds.

I therefore ask you to allow your scholarly treatise, in the framework of the opinions and religious decrees that you have announced and published, to be published in the Persian language in Iran. Of course the exalted leader has not kept the Iranians and those who like and imitate him from emulating whom they wish. Rather, what he said was out of concern and attention for and in reality in glorification of the seminaries. In reality, in this regard he wanted to say that he was not appointed. Just as he himself said, it was not a question of him being dissatisfied or having an objection.

He discussed the fight against selling at high prices and the sale of coins. He said: While I praise and support the government and its services in the fight against high prices, I vigorously condemn the the banking system and the mistaken policies on foreign exchange and recently coins, where a few people come and get in line early in the evening and then sell their place to others for several thousand tumans as key money. This is not worthy of the Islamic system and government. The same mistaken past procedure regarding the dollar has now begun in the area of coins.

Legislation

Consideration of the Bill on Collecting Certain Government Revenues

The only item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the details of the Bill on Collecting Certain Government Revenues and their Expenditure in Specific Instances, and its amendments, several more articles of which were approved by the deputies.

Article 11: Authorization to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

A: Consulate revenues and funds obtained through the sale of old, used, unusable, and surplus buildings will

be deposited into the nation's general revenue account, and 100 percent of the amount deposited into the nation's general revenue account will be given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the form of credits to be provided each year for this purpose in the budget law. The credits will be spent based on a letter of agreement with the Plan and Budget Organization to buy, build or equip buildings needed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also to buy relevant equipment needed outside the country.

B: The funds obtained through the sale outside the country of used and unserviceable automobiles on installment payments will be deposited in the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Central Bank is also required to deposit the rial foreign exchange of the aforementioned funds in the nation's general revenues account. The equivalent of the funds deposited under this paragraph will be given to the aforementioned ministry out of credits to be provided for this purpose each year in the budget law, to be used for the purchase of new automobiles outside the country.

J: A report on the measures taken in this regard will be given once every four months by the Plan and Budget Organization to the Majles Foreign Policy Commission, the Plan and Budget Commission, and the Majles Accounting Court.

Article 12: Authorization to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance:

A: Funds obtained through the sale of old, used, unusable, out-of-the way buildings, and buildings that are not needed for a cultural voice outside the country will be deposited into the nation's general revenue account and 100 percent of the amount will be deposited into the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is required to deposit the equivalent of the aforementioned foreign exchange funds in rials into the nation's general revenues account.

The equivalent of 100 percent of the amount deposited into the nation's general revenue account will be given to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in the form of credits to be provided each year for this purpose in the budget law, to be used to buy, build, or equip the needed cultural voice buildings outside the country.

B: The funds obtained through the sale outside the country of used and unserviceable cultural voice automobiles on installment payments will be deposited in the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Central Bank is also required to deposit the equivalent in rials of the aforementioned foreign exchange in the nation's general revenues account.

The equivalent of the above deposited funds will be given to the aforementioned ministry in the form of

credits to be provided each year for this purpose in the budget law, to be spent on the purchase of new automobiles outside the country.

Article 13: The Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education is authorized to collect laboratory fees based on tariffs prepared and approved by the Council of Ministers for the testing of temperature measurement products and instruments, and for quality control of domestic and imported devices and parts and domestically made biological products, and to deposit the collected fees into the nation's general revenues account.

The equivalent of 100 percent of the funds deposited will be given to this ministry in the form of credits to be provided each year for this purpose in the budget law, to be spent to build, complete, and develop medical testing laboratories.

Article 14: The Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education is required to collect a fee of R260 for issuing each insurance booklet to those covered by the Government Employees Treatment Services Law, and it must collect R1,000 from those who are insured for each duplicate booklet it issues. Likewise it must deduct R10 from each consumer prescription from the aforementioned booklets from the statements of the relevant physicians and deposit it into the nation's general revenues account.

The equivalent of 100 percent of the funds deposited will be given to this ministry in the form of credits to be provided each year for this purpose in the budget law, to be spent to prepare paper and print insurance booklets for the aforementioned treatment insurance.

Article 15: The Iran Blood Transfusion Organization is authorized to deposit the revenues collected from the sale of blood products and laboratory services into the nation's general revenues account, and the equivalent of 100 percent of the above deposited funds will be given to the aforementioned organization out of credits to be provided for this purpose each year in the national budget law, to be spent on research, production and purchasing some of that organization's needed tools and equipment.

Article 16: The Iran Pasteur Institute and the Razi Serum Manufacturing Institute are authorized, out of credits to be provided in the budget law each year for this purpose, to receive and spend all the revenues deposited into the nation's general revenues account from the sale of various types of serums, vaccines, and other produced and biological products and for the provision of health care and treatment services.

Article 17: The Ministry of Construction Jihad is authorized to sell its production and service units and also its old, scattered, and unusable real estate and buildings, and to deposit the revenues obtained into the nation's general revenues account.

A: The equivalent of 100 percent of the funds deposited and obtained from the sale of the production units

and services mentioned in this article will be given to the Ministry of Construction Jihad in the form of credits to be provided each year for this purpose in the budget law, to be spent on projects for rural and tribal resources.

B: The equivalent of 100 percent of the funds deposited and obtained from the sale of real estate and scattered and unusable buildings mentioned in this article will be given to the Ministry of Construction Jihad in the form of credits to be provided each year for this purpose in the budget law, to be spent on the construction or procurement of necessary administrative buildings, or on the reconstruction of that ministry's unusable buildings outside Tehran.

Article 18: The Ministry of the Construction Jihad is authorized to collect the revenues from its producing and service units and to deposit them into the nation's general revenues account. The expenses of the producing and service units and also the unused funds of the tribal cooperatives equivalent to 90 percent of the revenues mentioned in this article will be paid from credits to be provided for this purpose each year in the budget law.

Article 19: The Ministry of Roads and Transportation is authorized to establish the facilities needed to implement the Law to Build Road and Transportation Sector Development Projects with Participation from the Nation's Banks and Other Financial and Monetary Resources, enacted 8/24/1366 [15 November 1987], to collect tolls on the nation's freeways from shipping vehicles and to deposit the funds into the nation's general revenues account. The equivalent of the aforementioned deposits will be given to the aforementioned ministry out of credits to be provided for this purpose in each year's budget law to implement projects for participation in the construction of freeways. The Ministry of Roads and Transportation is authorized to spend 20 percent of the funds allocated in this article, 5 percent for the costs of collecting the taxes, and 15 percent to improve and maintain existing roads.

The guidelines on procedures for collecting the aforementioned taxes will be set by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation and the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs.

Article 20: The Ministry of Roads and Transportation is authorized to collect funds and deposit them into the nation's general revenues account for the purpose of maintaining the roads used exclusively by government organizations and institutions and government companies, and by nongovernment legal entities, based on contracts to be signed with the aforementioned organizations. The equivalent of the aforementioned deposits will be given to the aforementioned ministry out of credits to be provided for this purpose in each year's budget law, to be spent on road maintenance.

A number of deputies sought the deletion of Article 21, and this proposal was approved by the Majles. Article 21 was deleted.

It is worth mentioning that Article 21 said: The Law on Collecting the Price of Services Rendered by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation is amended as follows: The Ministry of Roads and Transportation is authorized to collect tariffs from applicants as approved by the Council of Ministers based on the recommendations of the National Supreme Transportation Coordination Council, and to deposit the funds in the nation's general revenues account, in return for the following services:

1. Issuing permits to pass and haul special loads (traffic and heavy loads)
2. Issuing trip booklets to heavy hauling vehicles.
3. Issuing and renewing operating licenses to shipping companies and institutions.
4. Issuing international travel permits.
5. Issuing work booklets for drivers.
6. Performing extra services.

Fifty percent of the above funds deposited into the national general revenues account will be given to the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, based on guidelines to be recommended by the Supreme National Transportation Coordination Council and approved by the Council of Ministers. The money will be spent to develop and improve highway transportation and shipping services. The equivalent of 20 percent of the aforementioned deposited funds will be given to the Ministry of Roads and Transportation to meet the costs of the Roads and Transportation Research Center out of credits to be provided for this purpose in each year's budget law.

The Ministry of Roads and Transportation is required to report once a month on operations and expenditures in the projects being implemented with the aforementioned credits to the Majles Housing and Urban Construction Commission, the Roads and Transportation Commission, the Plan and Budget Commission, and the Culture and Higher Education Commission.

Article 22: The National Meteorological Organization is authorized to collect funds for services and information that it provides based on measures approved by the Council of Ministers, and to deposit the funds into the national general revenues account. All university students in degree programs at various levels of study in the nation's universities are exempt from the payment of funds of any kind in exchange for information from the National Meteorological Organization.

The equivalent of 50 percent of the aforementioned deposited funds will be given to this organization out of credits to be provided for this purpose in each year's

budget law to be spent on research and training, reinforcing specialist cadres, and giving incentives to workers.

Article 23: The National Training Evaluation Organization is authorized to sign contracts with ministries, organizations, real persons, and legal entities for training and consulting services outside its required services and to deposit the revenues obtained into the national revenues account. The equivalent of 100 percent of the aforementioned deposited funds will be given to this organization out of credits to be provided for this purpose in each year's budget law, to be used to develop, complete, and repair machine services and for expenditures related to giving this training.

Majles Notes

Deputy From Lanjan And Mobarakeh's Guidelines Memorandum

At yesterday's open Majles session Mohsen Kuhkan, deputy from Lanjan and Mobarakeh, issued a guidelines memorandum concerning his question to the Minister of Islamic Guidance concerning "the illegal publication of the newspaper HAMSHAHRI."

He said: I had a question to Mr. Mirsalim about "the publication of the newspaper HAMSHAHRI." He came to the commission and answered our questions, but it was not satisfactory. The question's arrival was announced in the open Majles last week. One week has passed, but the question has not been copied and given to the deputies.

Dr. Hasan Rowhani announced in response: We will issue a memorandum that it be done.

Deputy From Bandar 'Abbas's Oath

At yesterday's open Majles session Mohammad Reza'i, deputy from Bandar 'Abbas, took the oath and began serving as deputy from Bandar 'Abbas.

Accounting Court Chief's Quarterly Report To Majles

After 130 Majles deputies requested that a report be presented on the financial performance of government organizations, it was learned that with the approval of the Speaker's Council the chief of the National Accounting Court will report to the deputies once every three months.

Mobarakeh Steel Complex

Several days ago the Ministry of Mines and Metals posted an announcement on the Majles bulletin board inviting deputies wishing to do so to inspect the successes and progress made at the Mobarakeh Steel Complex. Yesterday one of the deputies told our correspondent: Although deputies were promised that they would be flown to the aforementioned location, so far not a single person has signed up.

24 Jan 95

95LA0116A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jan 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding, and the deputies of the cities of Gonabad, Shirvan, and Tabriz spoke as pre-agenda speakers.

Then the speaker of the Majles commented on the success of his recent visit to Semnan. Then the Majles went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussion.

Statements of the Speaker of the Majles

The speaker of the Majles spoke prior to the agenda in connection with his recent visit to Semnan and said: I thank the warm and sincere people of Semnan province, who welcomed me as the servant of the Majles and the representative of all the deputies of this nation, as well as the accompanying delegation. They were most kind to us.

Referring to the extent of developmental work in the provinces after the revolution, especially in the course of the First Plan, Nateq-Nuri added: Even though we are more or less familiar with the numbers and figures and regularly receive reports from the executive officials, still when we travel to the provinces and see the volume of accomplishments first hand, we see that indeed the amount of work accomplished is greater than what is stated in the reports.

He emphasized: Prior to the revolution, the province of Semnan was forgotten and oppressed. Today, however, there are few villages in this province that are without electricity, and by the end of this year all the villages in that province will have electricity. And there is no village in that province for which a road has not been built.

He mentioned the large water outreach projects in this province on the edge of the desert and the large factories that have become operational. Then the speaker of the Majles said: In terms of higher education, it has really grown significantly. Prior to the revolution, the number of university students in that province was 1,500; now more than 16,000 students in that province are studying at various universities.

Also referring to the opening of the 160-bed hospital in Semnan, he thanked the executive officials, the government, and the president.

Mehdi Mehdizadeh, Deputy From Gonabad

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Mehdizadeh from Gonabad. He referred to the coming of the blessed month of Ramazan and the 10 days of Fajr and said: Sixteen years ago, on such a day, the people after a bloody struggle impatiently awaited the return of their leader, when suddenly on 4

Bahman 1357 [24 January 1979], the treasonous Bakhtiari closed the airport to prevent the entry of His Reverence.

He considered honoring these days a reminder of the self-sacrifice of the people and said that the press, radio, and television must carry out their mission in this connection by offering more fruitful and serious programs.

In regard to the crimes against the Muslims of Chechnya, Mehdizadeh pointed out: Now, more than six weeks have passed since the all-out attack of the aggressive Russian forces on the Muslim Republic of Chechnya with the goal of trampling the independence of that republic. Available reports indicate that there is severe fighting by the Muslim people of that country against the aggressors. Before the start of the attack, a Russian general said that for the conquest of Chechnya, one parachute regiment would be sufficient, and he gave assurances that that country would not be another Afghanistan, but the passage of time proved the contrary.

In continuation, referring to Yeltsin's lack of ability, the speaker said: What did not motivate some people was the reaction of the West to this issue. Those who were anxious for the independence of the countries in the Baltic region have kept silent in this case and implicitly endorse the actions of the Russians.

The deputy from Gonabad referred to the economic situation of the country after the war and the decrease in oil revenues and said: Lack of proper planning has resulted in questions, such as: What are non-oil exports and by whom and where must they be handled? These questions are not clarified and future plans are not clearly defined. As a result, anyone anywhere offers his own prescription to solve the problem.

He added: Exports by various individuals and organizations, without the necessary coordination and unreasonable competition among them, have caused disorder in this sector and decreased the soundness of non-oil goods, so that in some cases, the sale price of an item abroad is less than the price of the same item in the country. On the other hand, the foreign currency fluctuations have inflicted irreparable harm on exports. Also, due to the foreign currency shortages, some owners of industries engage in sham transactions with certain exporters in order to procure raw materials as spare parts, and this has been added to the problem.

Referring to the large investments that have been made in the industrial sector, he did not consider that it would at all be proper to abandon this sector.

Then, in connection with the problems of his constituencies, Mehdizadeh reminded the related officials about improper irrigation and the problem of unemployment.

'Abdolreza Rahmani, Deputy From Shirvan

The next speaker was Rahmani from Shirvan, who said: Now that we are approaching the anniversary of the

revolution, the main foundation of the regime has solidified as a strong reality in the whole world. This can be understood from the position and actions of friends and enemies of the revolution.

He added: Today, the enemies of the revolution no longer think about overthrowing and changing the regime, because their every effort in this area has faced bitter defeat. Hence, by changing their position, they are following a policy of controlling and restricting the revolution and, by raising issues such as human rights, terrorism, the use of nuclear energy as a military weapon, are creating discord among Islamic countries, particularly the Islamic countries of the region, preventing the establishment of regional partnerships and unions in economic and political affairs, creating tension, and perhaps escalating limited regional war on the foreign level.

In this connection, the speaker said: The enemies of the revolution in the country, by aggrandizing the problems and the impossibility of solving them, especially in economic affairs, and creating discord and disunity among the people of Iran, pursue the matter by raising ethnic and regional issues.

Stating that, considering such a plan by the enemies of the revolution, we must act more alertly than ever before in the internal and external affairs of the regime, Rahmani emphasized: By preserving the original general principles of the revolution that are perpetuated in obedience to the religious guardians, let the enemies of the revolution once again experience despair and defeat.

In connection with foreign affairs and the selection of stable, consistent, and precise principles by including the values and standards of the revolution and perpetuating and adjusting them with the constantly changing international variants, the deputy from Shirvan said: In this area, the existence of an information management system and strong analysis can play an important role. Also, by abandoning reactionary positions and devising methods that refute the international opinions and analyses of the opponents in the area of human rights and terrorism, we can show the true face of the revolution as a realistic country that believes in moral principles and adheres to human rights in its true sense.

Rahmani considered incompetence with regard to economic and production management, lack of a stable and permanent process regarding economic fluctuations, lack of confidence for investment, and lack of monetary and financial policies suitable for economic activities as among the most important problems and added: In the economic dimension, by devising a clear economic theory that conforms to the ideological, political, and geographical conditions of Iran, efforts must be made to prevent such chaos and erratic decisionmaking. This theory must be accepted as a general economic strategy, and all the related organizations must be obliged to observe and strengthen it.

The deputy from Shirvan referred to strengthening and perpetuating the ties between the people, the leader, and the government and added: The principle that must be noted in this connection is the need to place value and more importance on the opinions of the people and to create conditions under which the people can have more logical and focused participation and influence.

In this connection, he said: In this regard, it is of vital importance that we recognize the need for political organizations that are in line with the revolution and that can be charged with the organization and guidance of manpower and with providing the people with the necessary analyses and with always keeping them on the scene politically to defend the revolution.

The speaker emphasized: In this connection, we must pursue a new system to create political organizations and general participation that conforms with our situation. As a start, strengthening the news system of the press, guild, and political organizations and creating Islamic councils can be discussed.

In conclusion, the deputy from Shirvan said: By devising suitable and calculated methods, we must move as much as possible toward a decentralized planning system and the transfer of more authority and responsibility to the regions. In this case, we can hope that by better understanding of available resources, we shall gain more desirable results.

Seyyed Javad Angaji, Deputy From Tabriz

The last pre-agenda speaker was Angaji the deputy from Tabriz, who referred to the meeting of the ministers of agriculture of the Islamic Conference Organization and said: Out of 46 participating countries, 33 countries were represented at the ministerial level, indicating the serious attention Islamic countries give to the goals of this conference.

Unfortunately, the Islamic countries are mostly among the importers of foodstuff, and 30 out of 52 member countries face severe shortages of foodstuff.

He added: Fortunately, in its First Plan, despite the increase in population, Iran was able to achieve significant success in most areas in the production of foodstuff in the country. Today, more than 80 percent of essential foodstuff is procured domestically.

The export items of the agricultural sector enjoy a significant annual growth and comprise more than 45 percent of non-oil exports of the country.

The deputy from Tabriz then referred to the Free Islamic University and pointed out: Today, nearly 50 percent of the students of our country are studying at the Free Islamic University. The heavy burden of education and the payment of tuition, on the one hand, and lack of necessary resources, such as food, books, and student loans, on the other, have created difficult conditions for the students and administration of this university.

He mentioned the hasty, uncontrolled actions of the Central Bank in connection with the sale of coins as reminiscent of the bitter experience of the sale of the dollar, and said: It is appropriate for the Central Bank to take serious rapid steps to control the coin and dollar market before complicated problems are created.

He then mentioned the environmental pollution of the Tabriz power plant.

Ratifications

Continuation of the Bill on Collection of Certain Government Revenues

On the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of the examination of the details of the bill on the collection of certain government revenues, and its amendments, and their use in certain instances. Several other articles were discussed, examined, and ratified.

Based on Article 24, the cultural, educational, and research centers and organizations affiliated with the ministries (except for universities and higher educational research institutes affiliated with the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment and Medical Education stated in Article 26 of this law) are granted permission:

1. To collect fees on the basis of tariffs that will be approved by the Cabinet, by signing contracts concerning the special short-term training courses that do not result in the issuance of educational degrees and also by offering research, consultation, implemental, expert, technical, laboratory, workshop, and printing services and cultural, athletic, and welfare services.
2. To charge license processing and product fees for pilot and trial units and to sell the results of technical and production information research and agricultural and animal husbandry products.

All funds obtained from Paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be deposited in the general revenue account of the country.

The 100 percent equivalent of the amounts deposited by each of the above organizations from the funds projected for this purpose in the budget law each year and placed at the disposal of the same organization will be spent on training and research courses and offering the above-mentioned services.

Article 25. The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, and all organizations that have higher education institutions are responsible for depositing in the general revenue account of the country every year the collected amounts related to the expenditures of students who have changed their minds, who benefit from free training, or who have paid their educational expenditures in order to cancel their obligation. The equivalent of the above-mentioned deposited amounts shall be

placed at the disposal of the above-mentioned organizations from funds included in the budget law every year for this purpose, in order to be used to develop and repair student restaurants, cafeterias, and dormitories and for the essential repair of owned or rented property.

Article 26. The universities and higher education and research institutes affiliated with the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education are granted permission:

1. To collect certain amounts on the basis of tariffs that will be jointly suggested by the related ministers and approved by the Cabinet in regard to offering training services; special training courses; short-term and long-term courses at various educational levels; night courses; and research, consultation, laboratory, workshop, printing and publication, and cultural, athletic, and welfare services to actual and legal persons, provided no harm would come to the performance of the main duty of the related universities and higher education and research institutions, as determined by the minister of culture and higher education and the minister of health, treatment and medical education, as the case may be.

In regard to this article, a suggestion was made to replace it, which was not ratified. It was suggested that universities directly determine the rate of tariffs. Mr. Nabavi, the first deputy chairman of the Joint Economic and Finance and Cooperative Committee, opposed the suggested article and said: The tariffs were ratified by the government in order to have coordination and unity in the rate of tariffs, to ensure that every university does not decide as it wishes. Then it was put to a vote, and Article 26 of the Joint Committee was ratified by the Majles.

2. To sell books; publications; and technical, research, and production information as well as collect fees for sample product testing and agricultural and animal husbandry products.
3. All funds from the implementation of Parts 1 and 2 of Paragraph A must be deposited in accounts that will be opened by the Treasury for each organization subject to this article. The equivalent of the deposited amount shall be placed at the disposal of the related organization from funds that will be projected in the national budget law to be spent on offering the above services and research expenditures, with consideration for the law on the procedures for financial affairs and transactions of universities and higher education institutions.

Article 27. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is granted permission:

- A. To collect an amount equivalent to 15,000 rials [R] in the currency of the related country for issuing every job report card for Iranians employed abroad and deposit it in the account of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible for depositing the rial equivalent of the above foreign currency funds in the general revenue account of the country.

Every year, a maximum of 100 percent of the amounts that are deposited in this connection in the general revenue account of the country shall be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs from special funds that are projected every year for this purpose in the national budget law in order to be used for the issuance of identity cards for the above-mentioned workers and the offering of support services to them.

- B. The equivalent of 20 percent from the salaries and benefits of foreign employees will be collected, along with the equivalent of employment insurance fees, from private sector employers and deposited in the general revenue account of the country.

Every year, a maximum of 100 percent of the deposited amounts from the paragraph shall be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs from funds that are included in the national budget law every year for this purpose in order to be spent on the creation of productive jobs and new job opportunities.

Article 28. The Ministry of Agriculture is granted permission to spend up to 50 percent of the funds obtained from the sale of products that it deposits in the general revenue account from the funds that are included for this purpose in the budget law every year on the development and equipping of the research centers of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article 29. The Animal Husbandry Organization of the country is granted permission to collect the equivalent of 100 percent of the revenues from the implementation of Article 14 of the national animal husbandry law ratified on 24/03/1350 [14 June 1971], which it will deposit in the Treasury from the funds that are included for the same purpose in the budget law every year and spend on completion, equipment, and development of animal husbandry laboratories and treatment centers and other necessary expenditures to fight livestock diseases.

Article 30. In implementing the project for computer identification of migrants and foreign nationals, the Ministry of Interior is granted permission to collect R500 for the issuance of identity cards, R300 for the issuance and extension of travel documents, R10,000 for the issuance of temporary residency booklets for foreign nationals, and R25,000 for issuing copies of each of the above-mentioned documents and deposit said amounts in the general revenue account of the country.

Up to 20 percent of the above-mentioned deposited amounts shall be placed at the disposal of this ministry

from funds that will be included in the budget law every year to be spent on expenditures related to political refugees and those seeking political asylum.

In Article 31, which concerns the collection of taxes by City Halls, Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji suggested exemption for individuals with no housing that request building permits up to 100 sq meters under construction and also exemptions for building mosques, religious mourning centers, seminaries, and religious endowment real estate. Continuing his suggestion, he pointed out: City Halls are obliged to give a discount of 20 percent and higher on the housing and business location of self-sacrificers and 20-50 percent for the immediate families of martyrs and combatants who have been present on the front voluntarily for six consecutive months or one year alternately and the freed prisoners of war.

Opposing this suggestion, Engineer Bahonar pointed out that if you block one source of revenue, another will open on the basis of it, and said: We must not act out of emotion.

This article is about the operation of the cities of the country, and this suggestion is not an expert one and has not been verified by the Councils Committee.

Pointing out that concerning this suggestion, we might say that those who build housing on less than 100 sq meters should not pay taxes to the City Hall, but there is no problem with having taxes on bus tickets, and raising the price of tickets to R100, he said: (The City Hall) must operate its city.

In the end, this proposal was put to a vote and was not ratified.

The continuation of the examination was postponed to the next session.

On the Margins of the Majles

Yesterday, Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji the deputy from Tehran provided our correspondent with the following explanations concerning the recent chaos in the foreign currency and coin market.

Undoubtedly, the minister of economic affairs and finance, the director general of the Central Bank, the director of the Plan and Budget Organization, and the entire government are responsible for the chaotic situation of offering coins and foreign currency and the fact that every day their price has increased, the creation of ill effects from high prices and inflation, and the misuse by middlemen and elements inside the banking system, which have caused disgrace and lack of trust by the people in the government policies in the area of fighting price hiking. The Majles deputies are not informed about these methods and policies, and it is not clear where and by which authorities they have been endorsed and ratified.

Based on Article 126 of the internal bylaws of the Majles, the ministers and executive officials are responsible for heeding the reminders of the deputies and in this connection the deputies are always complaining. Yesterday, Mr. Naqba'i the deputy from Tuysirkan reiterated that he had not received a response concerning the health and treatment problems of that city from the minister of health and treatment.

25 Jan 95

95LA0117A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Jan 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles met later than the scheduled time yesterday, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, and immediately took up its agenda. We direct the attention of our respected readers to the details of the proceedings. The reason for the late start was the question from the deputies to the chief of the Central Bank concerning the reasons for excessive increases in the prices on foreign exchange and coins.

Legislation

Bill on Collecting Certain Revenues

The only item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the details of the Bill on Collecting Certain Government Revenues and their Expenditure in Specific Instances and its amendments. Several more articles were approved.

Based on Article 31:

- A: In the event the taxes collected are not adequate for municipal expenses, new taxes will be imposed and existing taxes increased only if proposed by the Minister of the Interior and approved by the president of the republic.
- B: Any kind of price increase for services, research, or products, or any taxes other than those provided for in this law for the government ministries, bodies, institutions, and companies, requires approval from the Economic Council.

Article 32: The police forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are authorized to collect 1,500 rials [R] from each fingerprinting applicant, and to deposit the funds into the public treasury.

A maximum of 20 percent of the above deposited amounts will be given to the above force out of credits to be provided for this purpose in each year's budget law, to be spent to create facilities and obtain laboratory, administrative, service, educational, and technical supplies.

The Law on Procedures for Dealing with Traffic Violations and Collecting Fines enacted 30 Khordad 1350 [20 June 1971], its subsequent amendments and its executive guidelines are amended as follows:

1. If the violator does not pay the fine within one month of the date of the citation, he must pay twice the amount written on the citation into special accounts to be opened by the treasury for this purpose.

There is no statute of limitations on the fines given in this article.

2. The fines for traffic violations will be set from R2,000 to R100,000 in accordance with the existing tables. The Ministry of the Interior may make distinctions in setting fines in view of the time and place of the incident, the type of violation, the extent of its effect on security, and the disruption of the flow of traffic.
3. All fines collected for traffic violations in the cities and on the highways must be deposited into the nation's general revenues account. Every year the following sums will be given to the relevant organizations out of credits to be provided for this purpose each year in the budget law:

A: The equivalent of 50 percent of the funds collected for traffic violations in each city that are deposited into the nation's general revenues account will be deposited into the relevant municipality's account out of the aforementioned credits, to be used to create parking spaces and to create, modify and repair roads, underpasses, and overpasses.

B: The equivalent of the remaining 50 percent of the funds collected for traffic violations in each city and also 70 percent of all the funds collected for highway traffic violations that are deposited into the nation's general revenues account, will be given to the police force out of the aforementioned credits. Three percent of that money will be used as incentives for agents who identify violations and issue citations and also to provide incentives and encouragement for other relevant agents, to promote the best performance possible of the assigned duties. The remainder of the aforementioned funds will be used to maintain order in the streets and roads; conduct training and preventive measures; procure technical equipment and implements to prevent accidents; to buy and maintain communications equipment and parts, motorized vehicles, and supplies, and also to pay for their fuel and maintenance; to buy land and to build and rent needed buildings, equipment, and signs; to procure public educational equipment; to send the personnel of the police force of the Islamic Republic of Iran outside the country to study and visit training and traffic institutions; and to pay tuition for traffic direction and driver training.

Likewise the remaining 30 percent of the funds collected from highway traffic fines will be given to the Ministry of Roads and Transportation to alleviate shortcomings and cover losses and to pay for highway signs and safety equipment.

Article 34

The Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics and the military and police forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are authorized to use the funds they collect and deposit into the nation's general revenues account, and which are provided to them out of credits to be provided for this purpose each year in the budget law, as follows:

- A: The equivalent of 80 percent of the revenues collected for internal incomes at bases, units, and computer services headquarters; the sale of surveying, agricultural, and animal husbandry activities, topography, factory, industrial and contracting activities; and income received as compensation for damage to vehicles and equipment.
- B: The equivalent of 100 percent of the income from providing treatment services to personnel other than one's own in cases where the resources for treating them are more than personnel needs.
- J: The equivalent of 50 percent of the revenue from providing technical and mechanical laboratory soil services by the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps.

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps will be given 20 percent of the funds in Paragraph A and 50 percent of the funds in Paragraph J to equip and reinforce the basiji resistance bases.

Article 35

According to the case, and with the approval of the Armed Forces General Staff and the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics and the police and military forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are authorized to sell and deposit into the nation's general revenues account items and equipment that are out of service, surplus, worn-out and useless, with the exception of the worn-out and out-of-service machinery and parts mentioned in Article 13 of this law.

The equivalent of 80 percent of the above deposited funds will be given to the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics and the police forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran according to the case, out of credits to be provided for this purpose out of each year's budget law, to be spent to repair, maintain, and rebuild their equipment and implements. The executive guidelines for this article will be recommended jointly by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics and the Ministry of the Interior and approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 36

Authorization is given to give to the National Registry Organization 90 percent of the revenues from the implementation of the amended Article 35 of the National Registry Law enacted 10/18/1363 [8 January 1995],

which are collected and deposited into the nation's general revenues account, out of credits to be provided out of each year's budget law until the end of the year 1377 [20 March 1999] for the purpose of continuing and completing the basic reform of the national registry system.

Article 37

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the National Land and Housing Organization are required to deposit into the nation's general revenues account all the funds from the pre-sale and the transfer of the public, military, residential, and commercial areas mentioned in the Urban Lands Law which are or will be directly collected by them or by other companies affiliated with the aforementioned ministry.

The equivalent of 100 percent of the aforementioned funds will be allocated and given to the the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction out of credits to be provided for this purpose out of each year's budget law, to be used exclusively for the construction of public, police, housing, and commercial sites, with adherence to the relevant laws and regulations.

The Plan and Budget Organization is required to include unspent credits mentioned in this article, which are deposited into the nation's general revenues account, in the subsequent year's credits in the aforementioned row in the budget law.

A report on performance under this paragraph must be presented once every four months to the Plan and Budget Commission, the Housing and Urban Development Commission, and the Accounting Court.

Article 38

The the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction and the Center for Construction and Housing Research are authorized to collect fees for the technical and research services they render to real persons and legal entities, and to deposit the funds collected into the nation's general revenues account.

The equivalent of 80 percent of the deposited funds mentioned in this article will be given to the the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction and the Center for Construction and Housing Research out of credits to be provided for this purpose out of each year's budget law, to be spent on research.

Article 39

In implementation of Article 19 of the Construction Engineering Law enacted in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], and for the purpose of developing the nation's engineering system, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction is authorized to collect the amounts given below and to deposit them into an account to be opened by the treasury for this purpose.

The equivalent of 100 percent of the above deposited amounts will be given to the aforementioned ministry out of credits to be provided for this purpose out of the national budget law, to be spent on compiling national construction regulations, a system for monitoring construction, the development of the engineering system, aid to engineering system organizations, and establishing training programs at the various aforementioned levels.

1. For issuing and extending each employment license and for authorizing the employment of real persons, R60,000.
2. For issuing and extending each employment license and for authorizing the employment of legal entities, R300,000.

Continued consideration of the articles in the bill was postponed to the next session.

Majles Notes

Reasons for Raising the Prices on Foreign Exchange and Coins

Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh attended yesterday's closed Majles session, and he explained to the deputies the reasons for raising the prices of foreign exchange and coins.

Mr. Nabovati, deputy from Saveh, discussed some of what Dr. Nurbakhsh had to say as follows:

Since the volume of currency in circulation in the country is quite high, and because there are many problems guiding capital towards production, those with capital have shown little interest in productive work. Because of the problems hindering production, investment in this area is sluggish. Consequently this has caused accumulated capital to move in a direction where capital is easily attracted and where there is a suitable profit. The coin and foreign exchange markets are therefore the main areas for this activity. The recent problems in the market have arisen from this very thing.

On the other hand, since supply and demand are not equal, this naturally causes prices to increase. The Central Bank has adopted a new policy to prevent this, and this is the pre-sale of coins. This causes the flow to go from one particular point to the entire country. Anyone can pay a sum of money and obtain his coins after a short time. This temporary program is perhaps one of the best ways, and can lead to the reduction of the price of coins on the market.

According to the chief of the Central Bank, one of the practical ways to fight currency in circulation [as published] is to increase the profit rate on deposits. If this profit is close to the rate of inflation in society, it can help anchor inflation.

Our correspondent reports that because of the lack of time, the deputies asked that this meeting be held again,

to give the Central Bank chief more of an opportunity to answer questions from the deputies.

Majles Presentation Date for 1374 Budget Bill

The 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] Budget Bill is now going through the final phases of consideration in the Joint Economic and Financial Affairs and Plan and Budget Commission. Next Tuesday it will be discussed and studied in the open Majles.

29 Jan 95

95LA0118A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
30 Jan 95 pp 5, 17, 19

Majles Approves General Form of 1374 Budget Bill

[FBIS Translated Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles met yesterday in morning, afternoon, and evening open sessions, and approved the general form of the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] Budget. We direct your attention to the detailed proceedings.

Joint Commission Expert's Remarks

Mr. Nowbakht, expert from the Joint Economic and Financial Affairs, Plan and Budget and Cooperatives Commission, discussed the presentation of the 1374 Budget. He said: In the first part I will analyze the approved revenues, and in the second part I will report to my colleagues on the special characteristics and also the categories the commission treated in the 1374 budget.

He added: The nation's total revenues come from three sources, general revenues, allocated revenues, and revenues from government companies, profit-making institutions and banks. The nation's budget for 1374 is written based on 97,457,641,541,000 rials [R], of which general revenues are R43,515,709,000,000 and allocated revenues are R3,847,087,676,000.

Nowbakht continued: The government's general budget, which is formed from general and allocated revenues, is R47,362,796,676,000, and the nation's total budget of R2,186,531,223,000 is more than the figure the respected government recommended in the bill.

The commission expert said that the nation's general budget and general revenues consist of three sources, the sale of oil, the collection of taxes, and government sale of goods and services. He added: In the year 1374 the approved revenues from the sale of oil are more than R25,113,637,500,000, and there is no difference between this figure and the one proposed by the government in the bill.

With regard to tax revenues, he said: R7,862,000,000,000 is the figure on the tax revenues we should have in the year 1374, and this is the same figure the government proposed in the bill.

Nowbakht emphasized: The main difference in the nation's total budget or general revenues has to do with other revenues, the revenues from government monopolies and property and also revenues from services and the sale of goods, which are more than the figure the government proposed.

The expert from the Joint Commission said: The reason for this increased amount is the implementation of the Law on Collecting Certain Revenues and their Expenditure in Certain Instances, which will be implemented in the country in the year 1374.

He continued: An effort was made so that there would be no divergence between the 1374 Budget, as the budget of the first year of the Five-Year Plan, and the goals, policies, and orders approved in the Five-Year Plan's notes. It is possible that the figures that we presented in the 1374 Budget may differ from the figures given for the first year of the Five-Year Plan. The reason is that we wanted to implement the goals that were approved in the Second Five-Year Plan. For example, during consideration of the Second Five-Year Plan, there was legislation in the open session that had not been seen in the [Majles] Commission. These figures had to be observed in the 1374 Budget.

Subsidies on Basic Goods

He added: The first positive point in this budget is its adherence to the Five-Year Plan's orders to provide subsidies on basic goods, for \$1.25 billion has been provided for basic goods such as vegetable shortening, sugar cubes and sugar, rice and cheese, in addition to the \$420 million approved for drugs.

Nowbakht emphasized: This figure is 1.5 times the amount of foreign exchange being provided this year for basic goods.

Repayment of Foreign Commitments

Continuing, the expert from the Joint Commission said: The second area of emphasis in the plan with regard to the expenditure of foreign exchange is the repayment of foreign commitments. The 1374 Budget provides for the repayment of \$1.6 billion in foreign commitments. In other words, the repayments will be done in such a way that by the end of the year 1374 [20 March 1996] \$1.6 billion will be trimmed from the foreign debt ceiling, and this is also in accordance with the approved goals of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Continuing, he said: A third point which was approved in one of the notes of the Second Five-Year Plan and was also approved in the same form in the budget, was the procurement of current expense credits to increase the salaries of government workers.

Continuing, Nowbakht said: In the Majles it was decided that if expenses are to be considered realistically and if appropriate subsidies are to be provided in the budget and the Five-Year Plan, the same must also be done with

government payments to workers so their earnings will rise proportionate to these increased expenses. For this reason, at least R800 billion has been provided for this purpose in the budget, to be added to the wages of government workers.

Limiting the Rate of Inflation

Continuing, he said: Limiting the rate of inflation and currency in circulation was another point emphasized by the Joint Commission. In view of the fact that there is a direct relationship between this rate of inflation and currency in circulation, an effort was made to pay attention to this issue. According to this measure, the ceiling on banking means for the year 1374 was approved at \$6.7 billion.

By limiting this figure, which is something that began last year, one can expect that the volume of currency in circulation will remain limited. Along with these indicators of psychological factors, the increase in the profit rates for a few people is also influential.

We expect the respected government to make a great effort, as in the past, to control prices and to be vigilant about these kinds of unbridled price increases.

As examples, Mr. Nowbakht mentioned some of the excessive price increases, saying that there have been no economic changes to lead to increases in those prices.

Mr. Nowbakht discussed other characteristics of the 1374 budget. He said: Another characteristic of this budget is improving the deprived rural areas. This is in addition to national and development credits to be spent in the year 1374.

Deletion of Some Notes Lacking Positive Results

He added: The deletion of some notes that did not have good results in the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] is among the positive characteristics of the 1374 Budget. An example is Paragraph A, Note 13. In this paragraph the respected Majles provided, in order to reduce current expenses in government organizations and save more money, that the government organizations should sell their passenger vehicles and use public transportation. Poor implementation on the part of some executive organizations caused the deletion of Paragraph A Note 13.

Budgets for Government Companies

In part of his talk he discussed the categories in the 1374 Budget. He said: The first point is dealing with the budgets for the companies. The government's general budget in the year 1374 is about R43.362 trillion, while the budget for the companies is more than R64.406 trillion. More than 109 large companies whose budgets were more than 10 billion tumans were studied in the Joint Commission's working groups. If we are able to deal later with the companies whose budgets were less than 10 billion tumans, that will be another positive step.

Province Budgets

Another category in the 1374 Budget is specifying the province budgets and designating them in the nation's total annual budget.

Another point is preventing increases in the foreign exchange commitments account. There is a difference in the rate when the foreign exchange accounts were opened and the current foreign exchange rate. This difference has always created debt for the Central Bank at the time these accounts were opened. The government's debt and this increase in the amount of currency bills was itself

seen as a kind of borrowing. In the year 1374, to keep from creating more debt for the government, the difference was included in the budget as credit.

The Central Bank cannot claim that when we opened the account we got credit at 7 tumans, and now we are going to pay it back at 170 tumans. We have accounted for this gap in the form of centralized credits in the 1374 Budget.

Oil Revenues and Welfare

He added: The total oil revenues of about \$11 billion in the year 1374 have been listed as the nation's foreign exchange revenues. All the expenses that we will incur in the year 1374 are paid from this source and also from tax revenues. The nation's oil revenues in the year 1356 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978] were \$21 billion, but oil revenues in the year 1374 will be \$11 billion, which is \$10 billion less than in the year 1356.

At the same time, the population has increased. Added to that are the costs incurred by the events of the imposed war, which cost the country more than \$1 trillion. Yet despite this revenue gap we were able to stabilize the dollar and foreign exchange rate and increase the wages of workers. Therefore we cannot create welfare in society at the levels of the year 1356. In the year 1374 the decision was made to spend more than 100 billion tumans to build 17 large dams.

After the Joint Commission expert's remarks, supporters and opponents were invited to speak.

Astaneh, Opponent

Astaneh was the first opponent. During his speech he said: The government's control through the budget is actually up to the Majles, but a matter as important as this usually goes through the Majles in a short time. It has become customary late in the year to compile the budget with great haste on a compressed schedule and have it passed by the deputies.

He noted that the 1374 Budget is at odds with the Second Five-Year Plan, relies on oil revenues, and lacks balance and unity. He added: The figure the government was required to submit as the nation's general budget to the Majles in the 1374 Budget Bill was R36.394 trillion. In the bill presented the figure was R45.176 trillion, and the Joint Commission increased this figure to more than

R47.362 trillion. It must now be asked, why did you not act on the Majles legislation, and why did you present the 1374 Budget Bill to the Majles with an increase of more than R8.782 trillion?

Continuing, Astaneh said: The figure given to the Majles in the report from the Joint Commission undermined several months of Majles work and legislation, and it has disrupted the planning system and the Five-Year Plan.

He discussed the government's dependence on oil exports. He said: The draft the Plan and Budget Organization submitted to the Council of Ministers shows that about 60 percent of the 1374 Budget relies on oil and gas revenues.

Astaneh said: The government's budget must be spent in such a way that every rial brings a positive result and losses are minimized.

He emphasized: In order for the Majles to be able to conduct its oversight well, it must seek a budget where the billions of tumans in investments that are outside the Budget Law are controlled. This is one of the government's important duties which has not been carried out so far.

Akrami, Supporter

Akrami, deputy from Semnan, spoke in support. He said: This bill is part of the Second Five-Year Plan, and is not outside it. We are not maneuvering outside the field. More than 100 hours and more than 36 meetings have been held in the Majles on this bill.

The specialist commissions had meetings, and overall it is a good plan. In the 1374 Budget attention has been given to such points as providing subsidies on basic goods and foreign commitments.

Continuing, he enumerated the positive features of the Budget Bill, and he mentioned attention to the budgets of the government companies as one of the 1374 Budget's virtues.

Bahme'i, Opponent

Bahme'i was the next opponent. In his speech he said: The Budget Bill differs completely from the Second Five-Year Plan that was approved in Azar of 1373 [22 November-21 December 1994]. In the Second Five-Year Plan general expenses were approved at R36 trillion, while in the Budget Bill the figure is R47,000 [as published] a deviation of 30.1 percent. Current expenses in the Second Five-Year Plan were set at about R22,000 billion, while the figure in the 1374 Budget is R26 trillion, a figure about 17.8 percent higher than the Five-Year Plan. Development expenses in the Second Five-Year Plan are set at about R13 trillion, while in the 1374 Budget Bill the figure is about R14 trillion, an increase of about 5.5 percent.

He continued: The budget deficit in the Second Five-Year Plan is R175 billion, but it is R250 billion in the

Budget Bill, a deviation of 42.9 percent. Oil revenues are R21 trillion in the Five-Year Plan, but in the 1374 Budget Bill the figure is R25 trillion, a difference of about 16.8 percent.

Bahme'i discussed the fact that in the 1374 Budget Bill oil revenues are 16.8 percent more than the figure in the Five-Year Plan. He said: This difference may arise from increased foreign exchange revenues from the sale of oil. In that case the Five-Year Plan must be rewritten and the Budget Bill must be changed with the weakened rial.

Dari-Najafabadi, Supporter

Dari-Najafabadi was the next supporter. During his speech he discussed the reason for the lack of equilibrium in the revenues in the government's proposed budget bill. He said: There were two basic reasons. One had to do with the foreign exchange for making the repayments. In the Five-Year Plan the 70-rial dollar was used in calculating the repayment of foreign exchange commitments, while in the 1374 Budget Bill the rate for the calculation was the 1,750-rial dollar.

Therefore in the total figure there is one one effect in rials, and another effect has to do with basic goods. The dollar ceiling on the present figure on basic goods given in the Five-Year Plan is equal to the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], but its rial ceiling was also stipulated late in the Five-Year Plan.

The Ministry of Commerce was looking into this and asking about it. We have such a deficit in terms of rials that the percentage made R600 to R700 billion, and the Joint Commission also provided some of it to obtain the rials for basic goods which can to some extent function on a par with the year 1372.

He discussed the commission's increase of the revenues figure by R2.1 trillion. He said: The basis for this change and this increase was the views of the Majles specialist commissions. If this causes inflation, we will go back to the recommendation of the specialist commissions. This figure is the result of the decisions and guidelines enacted by the Majles, and it is a right the Joint Commissions have.

Dari-Najafabadi discussed the fact that the figures for tax revenues are in accord with the figures in the Five-Year Plan. He added: Changes have been made in the details. With regard to customs levies and commercial profits, the government's bill provides about R2.5 trillion. This was amended to R1.7 trillion, because we knew it was not realistic and would not be achieved.

He discussed oil revenues. He said: The government's bill specified R25 trillion for this, and this is the exact figure that was approved in the Joint Commission. The difference is a half-dollar difference in the price for a barrel of oil, between \$14.50 and \$15, for under the circumstances we guessed that \$15 will be collected. No other changes were made in general.

Khabaz, Opponent

The next opponent was Khabaz. During his speech he said: The bigger the current budget, the more it will fan inflation, and a lot of what is in the development sector will also be spent on current expenses.

He said: In the Second Five-Year Plan we decided that the education and training budget should be concluded in such a way that there would be no budget deficit. We estimated that the average salary in the National Airline Organization would be 70,000 tumans per month and the average salary to be paid in the Iran Vehicle Company would be 90,000 tumans. If the average salary of those subject to the National Employment Law in the Coordination Program is 18,000 tumans, how are workers to tolerate this difference?

He also continued: The Majles and the government tried to compile and prepare a series of policies. When this is implemented, you will have 3.5 million workers, most of whom will have very low salaries that have not been provided in the budget. The supporters may say that the government will approve a 20 percent increase in the wages of workers. I say to you that according to the official report from the Central Bank, inflation this year is 35 percent, and you want to increase worker salaries for the year 1374 by 20 percent.

Khabaz noted that about 53 percent of the budget that has to do with the government companies, the profit-making institutions and the banks was not considered due to the lack of time, and must undergo further revision. He said: This year we have tax increases of 26 to 27 percent. How and from which class will these taxes be collected? Has the tax-collecting mechanism changed?

Zare', Supporter

Zare' was the next supporter. During his speech he said: The total for non-oil exports under the First Five-Year Plan was \$11.7 billion. This time around the share of non-oil exports in the entire country compared to the nation's total exports has risen to 15 percent, which is quite significant. He regarded as important points in Article 1 and its notes the issue of decentralization, emphasis on oversight of development and public resource projects, special attention to social justice and alleviating deprivation, supporting the domestic producing sectors and the focus on agriculture. He said: In the Second Five-Year Plan attention was given to the development of research. Fortunately the Budget Bill adheres to this, and 1.5 percent of GNP has been allocated to research.

Yesterday's Afternoon Meeting

Movahedi-Saveji, Opponent

'Ali Movahedi-Saveji spoke in opposition to the 1374 National Budget Bill. He said: One of the main problems is the fact that the 1374 Budget does not adhere to the Five-Year Plan. With regard to the figures for the 1374

Budget, the government has exceeded the limits both with regard to revenues and expenses, and the Joint Commission has doubled this excess.

He then said: Implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan has not even begun and the gentlemen are violating it by passing this bill. If you don't accept the Five-Year Plan, then cancel it, but if you accept it, why do you deal with it like this?

Movahedi-Saveji also added: Why are you destroying the Five-Year Plan on the pretext that we want to give basic goods to the people based on the year 1372 in terms of quantities and prices, and we did not have enough credits to do so?

He added: The statement in the report that the Joint Commission met 36 times and worked on this bill for 100 hours is to a great extent rhetoric. The meetings the Plan and Budget Commission had with the experts were held in the absence of the members of the Economic Affairs Commission. They said they would not attend and they did not. In any case, the efforts by the members of the Joint Commission and the other commission are praiseworthy.

Continuing, he said: With the course the gentlemen have adopted, we will have a budget deficit and we will be unable to repay our foreign commitments.

The deputy from Tehran discussed other problems in the Budget Bill, and sharply criticized the price increases. He said: The prices for water, electrical power, iron, steel, and other things have increased in this bill. These price increases are beyond the price increases provided for in the Second Five-Year Plan, and this was and is a source of worry for the people and the deputies. There is no proper and logical justification of any kind for these things. I think the existing high prices, which the people are enduring nobly and with complete dignity (of course the wails and cries of some of them are loud) are sufficient, and that we must not raise any more prices.

Qashqavi, Supporter

He said: The bill's opponents are all coming forward to speak based on the numbers, yet we all know that the Five-Year Plan is about the five years generally, not about any single year. Truly the foundation for change in the numbers is completely respected and it is always reasonable for some of the numbers and figures to rise or fall.

He added: Many of the figures provided in the Five-Year Plan were not appropriate for the table of prices, and the result was that if we wanted to implement some of them we would have problems with the numbers. For example, the order to pay subsidies on basic goods was taken into consideration, the order in the Five-Year Plan to increase government worker wages was taken into consideration, and its numerical supplement was not in

accordance with the order issued. In the budgets these numbers were more realistic and therefore the numbers differ in the details.

Qashqavi said that if the brothers want to know whether or not the budget is in the framework of the Five-Year Plan, they should not analyze the numbers. They should analyze the goals we had in the Five-Year Plan. He said: In the last session we discussed the Bill on Collecting Government Revenues. That is, the Majles has provided a series of revenue sources for the government. Now they have said that there are things there that are not in the Second Five-Year Plan. Yet this is in the budget in the context of the rest, and it is not at odds with the Five-Year Plan.

Fatahi, Opponent

Fatahi was the next opponent. During his talk he cited the most important reasons for his opposition: repetitive notes, excess and complexity, failure to observe regulations, previous laws, especially the Second Five-Year Plan Law and other laws in the compilation of notes, separating the course of the economic system from the path of sacred religious law, creating financial self-sufficiency for separate and individual government organizations, weakening the government's overall financial authority, extensive intervention in non-budgetary areas, the failure to adhere to technical budget-writing criteria, and deleting most of the areas of Majles oversight.

He continued: One must ask, why wasn't inspiration taken in writing the budget and in compiling and collecting revenues and meeting costs from profound Islamic and human concepts such as nurturing, alms, charity, the pious donation of one-fifth of one's assets, and other economic foundations, and why doesn't the nation's annual budget stand on these foundations?

Fatahi said that in the Budget Bill the current expense budgets for the medical science universities and hospitals throughout the country have been reduced to zero, and these universities and hospitals must earn R1.235 trillion in the year 1374. He said: The law has permitted the five-year insurance to be implemented. In the first year you had the right to take 20 percent of that as specialized income, not 100 percent of it. In what project do they use the entire budget the first year? This 100 percent reduction to zero will have very difficult results in the year 1374.

He discussed the deletion of the Majles oversight portion of the 1374 Budget. He said: Last year the Majles approved many paragraphs on oversight, all of which were deleted, such as the prohibition on the purchase of automobiles, the purchase of unnecessary office decorations, and other things. In general there is no oversight of any kind in the budget.

Hasan Shakhesi, Supporter

Shakhesi, deputy from Astaneh-ye Ashrafi, was another of the 1374 Budget Bill's supporters. In his speech he

said the bill's characteristics arise from the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: Among this bill's characteristics are:

1. reduced foreign commitments and debt
2. in view of the important economic problems, the payment of subsidies on basic goods has been observed in the desired way
3. procuring the necessary credits for universal insurance
4. preventing increased rates on fees for services outside the criteria of the Second Five-Year Plan
5. creating employment based on the Second Five-Year Plan
6. special attention to government workers in the matter of incomes
7. attention to farmers in order to decrease the cost of production and increase incomes.

He then added: On the one hand you say that high prices have broken the nation's back, and on the other you say not to spend oil revenues on the people. What do these things mean, other than that this can be done by increasing taxes and fees? Who will bear the burden of the increased taxes? If you think this will benefit the oppressed, I must say that collecting unrealistic and illegal taxes is a sword held over the heads of the people.

Shakhesi then protested to the deputy from Kashmir about increasing the wages of airline workers. He said: This is not right. Didn't you say to bring the incomes of the low-income classes into line with expenses? One cannot come out from under the load of enormous expenses with a low income. How can you say that the wages of some are excessive and to reduce the current expense budget?

He also added: What the opponents are saying will weaken the government. The respected government is acting based on what has been dictated by we deputies of the people. Does it deserved to be attacked by the deputies? It is necessary to mention that Mr. Movahedi-Saveji, in his guidelines memorandum, did not consider what the opponents are saying to be something that will weaken the government.

Zare'i-Qanavati, Opponent

The next opponent to the 1374 Budget Bill was Zare'i-Qanavati, deputy from Behbahan. During his speech he said: Everyone thinks, and it isn't even logical, that the people are under pressure because of price increases. Just in this last week or two we have seen price jumps, especially in the area of general provisions. Isn't it true that the chief of the Central Bank considers the main reason for the high prices to be the volume of currency in circulation in the hands of the people? This budget is therefore also inflationary. That means that next year we will see another round of price increases.

He then said: Let us find a mechanism for economizing and reducing costs and implement it. Why should the cost of producing goods and services keep going up? Can't expenses be reduced? The experts on the compound commission said that a significant percentage of current expenses and production costs can be reduced, but neither the government nor the Majles is pursuing this.

Robusheh, Supporter

Robusheh was the Budget Bill's next supporter. During his speech he said: Finding fault is easy, but it must be realized that it can be better than this, in a situation where all of imperialism is angry and hostile towards the divine government, and on the other hand we must also create justice in the country.

He emphasized: The 1374 Budget is a budget that is in accord with the views of our thoughtful leader, the experts and the realistic understanding that the executive organizations have. In our country's existing situation they can solve the problems and difficulties.

It is worth mentioning that before Mr. Robusheh, Mr. Rezavi-Ardekani registered as an opponent, then spoke several minutes as a supporter, and the deputy speaker of the Majles prevented him from continuing.

Kuhkan, Opponent

Kuhkan was the final opponent. During his speech he said: The most important issue in my opposition is the proposed budget's failure to adhere to the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: If the Majles is going to be the first to violate its own legislation, the plan that we approved several months ago, then the situation in the executive organizations must no longer be criticized. This attack on the Five-Year Plan will do great damage and harm.

Kuhkan discussed the various notes in the banking system. He said: The brothers and the expert must give this report on how much we really implemented the notes we wrote last year. If we give the banking system a responsibility and it does not do it, then we must either deal with that in its own time, or if when we evaluate we decide the responsibility was too heavy, then in the next Five-Year Plan, we should not include that in the report on the next budget bill.

He emphasized: One of the objections applicable to this report is that if you look at the development credits in this report's supplement and then if you compare and study this in the municipalities, you will see that what was written and compiled, especially in the province credits, is permission for the organizations to continue their violations, for 10 to 12 years ago there were 1,000 half-complete projects in the country. To complete these projects we apply credits, and today the number of these projects is several times the number we had ten years ago.

After Mr. Kuhkan's speech, a number of deputies declared that there had been sufficient debate, and this was agreed to.

Government Representative's Speech

After Nowbakht, the commission expert, spoke again in defense of the Budget Bill, Rowghani-Zanjani, chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, spoke on the proposed 1374 Budget Bill. He said: The brothers said that the budget the government presented is not in accordance with the Five-Year Plan. I say it conforms to it precisely. Merely notice that in the proposed bill about R41 trillion was presented in the general budget bill, and in the Five-Year Plan Bill it is R36 trillion, a difference of just R5 trillion. Before we talk about the reason for this difference, I will discuss this point in the Five-Year Plan Bill. There are two groups of figures in the Five-Year Plan Bill. When the table of budget figures in the Five-Year Plan Budget was closed, there was a change. These figures are in the table of numbers the brothers see before them, and it was ordered that we change this table.

As an example, he added: Note 78 of the Five-Year Plan orders that 3 percent of the total credits be spent on water development. That is, in the section on water there is a figure, and this figure was announced to the government. At the same time this note came and was announced. To write the budget, we cannot cite a figure that was a figure in the water section, because the lawmaker gave another order and that changed the figure, and we implemented that.

The chief of the Plan and Budget Organization noted that despite the fact that these orders were given and were not the source of authority, the government, because of these lawful orders in the Five-Year Plan, changed a series of ceilings. He explained that if there were changes in the Five-Year Plan's ceilings, they came from the orders in the Five-Year Plan Bill and are in accordance with the plan's lawful orders.

He then discussed the difference of R5 trillion in the proposed bill. He said: We must reduce the nation's commitments by \$1.6 billion per year. In the Five-Year Plan Bill the 70-rial dollar is the multiplier. In order for us to tell society and the Majles the value of this reduction in commitments, we used the 1,750-rial dollar, and the figure became R2.757 trillion. This was an accounting move. Another issue is increasing the wages of workers. They had not given a figure, and we increased them by 20 percent, with a financial burden of R800 billion.

Likewise, for subsidies on basic goods the figure that was given was not compatible with the table and the order to distribute coupons was not compatible with the year 1372, and R445 billion was added here. The water taxes were ordered in Note 19 but were not reflected in the Five-Year Plan table, and R47 billion was added. The cigarette taxes for the physical training organization at R100 billion, an assessment of one mill for the industrial

factories at R50 billion, and the telephone taxes of R100 billion are among the reasons for this difference.

He continued: We have a figure of R217 billion in World Bank loans. Years ago we took a loan from the World Bank that was outside the budget, and for the first time we took a World Bank loan with the exchange of a letter of agreement, installment payments and accounting and organization within the budget.

The chief of the Plan and Budget Organization also said: One of the notes said that to give loans to the people it was ordered that 45 percent of the growth in banking means be borne by government organizations and the rest must be taken on by the private sector so that the people will be able to obtain loans and engage in economic activities. This has to do with issues of privatization.

He emphasized: The budget, as a financial tool of any country, will have inflationary effects when the budget itself is unbalanced or when the borrowing sector exerts its own effects. We say that this budget has no borrowing from the Central Bank. Imbalance in banking affairs means that the government is in some way a debtor on the Central Bank's ledger. In the year 1372 the specialist commissions that were involved in this opened an account for commitments in the Central Bank without this being reflected in the budget, and this made the government a debtor, because of the same imbalance in the monetary system, the growth in currency in circulation and inflation. The Majles ordered this account closed as of the year 1374 and the Central Bank is required to make this account zero.

Rowghani-Zanjani said: This account was due to the fact that the foreign exchange commitments went to the buyer of the foreign exchange at 7 tumans. Then he brought the goods or did not bring them without giving the foreign exchange to the other side at that time. When the goods were shipped, a year or two later, the Central Bank had to pay the foreign exchange, and the price of the foreign exchange at the time of payment was not R70 rials, but R1,750 or R2,000. The buyer bought the foreign exchange at R70 but he had to pay back 200 tumans at payment time.

He noted that the policy of economic adjustment is a proper policy, and we wanted to implement some of it over time. He added: If we repeat in subsequent years what we did this year, be assured that currency in circulation will be controlled.

Rowghani-Zanjani continued: In the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] the rate of inflation grew and currency in circulation was at 34 percent. This had to show up somewhere. Its effects are now showing up in the foreign exchange and gold markets.

He added: If GNP increases 7 percent per year and we have population growth of about 2 to 3 percent, this

makes 9 or 10 percent. The buying power of our dollar decreases 3 to 4 percent per year. This equals 12 to 13 percent. While we control currency in circulation, the nation's foreign exchange must grow 12 percent each year compared to the previous year and oil and non-oil exports must grow about 12 percent per year to keep the price of foreign exchange stable.

We must think ahead for the next 10 years. It is true that there are costs. We ourselves must spend less and the surplus must go out as investment, while foreign exchange must be used for factories and domestic welfare.

In defense of the Budget Bill, he said: The Budget was written balanced and it has no inflationary effects. The 1374 Bill adheres to the Second Five-Year Plan.

He added: One of the issues discussed by the brothers is the question of dependence. They say our dependence has increased. Dependence on what? I maintain here that our dependence is decreasing. There is no precedent in the entire economic history of Iran for the amount of domestic construction we have done in the space of five years. Before the revolution we paid several dollars for every megawatt in power plant construction. Now we are building them in Azarab and elsewhere.

After the government representative spoke, a vote was taken and the general form of the 1374 National Budget Bill was approved.

Legislation

Agreement between Iran and Malaysia

At the beginning of yesterday's session the cultural agreement between Iran and Malaysia (returned from the Guardian Council) was presented, and amended as follows: Each party to the agreement may request in writing a change or an amendment to all or part of the agreement. After approval by the lawmaking authorities of the two countries, any kind of change or amendment will be binding as of the date the two parties to the agreement designate.

Amendment to the Motion on Performing Obligatory Service by Judicial Sciences Graduates

The Motion on Performing Obligatory Service by Judicial Sciences Graduates in the Public Prosecutor's Offices and Courts was also amended, with the term "judicial power" replacing the term "Ministry of Justice."

Motion to Amend the Smuggler Penalties Law

Another item on the agenda was the Motion to Amend Article 1 of the Smuggler Penalties Law, which was approved as follows:

Article 1: The unauthorized industrial production of alcohol, alcoholic compounds, non-alcoholic beverages, and fruit juice inside the country or their sale before the relevant taxes are paid or before the procedure for paying them is given will be regarded as a case of

smuggling government revenues, and in view of the the circumstances, the resources, the number of times, and the incidents of the crime, the perpetrator will be fined a maximum of 10 times the amount of the revenues that should have been paid to the government.

Note: With regard to property whose export or import is prohibited and government monopoly goods, if the evidence indicates a charge should be filed, a deposit will be collected by the relevant judicial authority from the defendant.

Amendment to Article 9 of the Law on Collecting Satellite Reception Equipment

Paragraph B Article 9 of the above law was amended as follows:

B: The funds collected as fines under Articles 8 and 9 of this law will be deposited into the public treasury and 100 percent of that money will be given to the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran to meet the costs of fighting the cultural invasion.

It is necessary to mention that the expert from the Islamic Guidance and Art Commission announced during a statement: Paragraph B Article 9 and Articles 2 and 3 of this motion were amended to gain the approval of the Guardian Council. Mr. Movahedi-Saveji opposed the proposed two-month deadline for collecting the antennas, and the speaker of the Majles announced that the existing one-month deadline for collecting the antennas remains. It is worth mentioning that in the amendment, in addition to the Voice and Vision Organization and the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, the name of the Ministry of the Interior was also included in Article 9.

Bahram Ya'qubi, Deputy From Lahijan

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Ya'qubi, deputy from Lahijan. He offered congratulations on the Ten Days Dawn Celebration and discussed the fact that agriculture is the focus in the Second Five-Year Plan. He added: Mechanizing agriculture, supporting and training farmers, and encouraging them to grow high-yield rice, and timely delivery of needed resources can make us self-sufficient during the Five-Year Plan.

The speaker discussed support for tea growers, increasing technical and specialist knowledge about tea, creating a tea college, building a hospital for tea growers, and paying timely loans to tea growers.

Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, Deputy From Saqqez and Baneh

The next speaker was Partovi, deputy from Saqqez and Baneh. During his speech he discussed the high culture of Islamic society. He said: The deprived must not be sacrificed to the ignorance and insensitivity to duty of a

few, just to try to keep themselves alive. In the cities of Saqqez and Baneh more than 200 people lost their lives as the result of a mine explosion. It is not right to lay mines between a number of villages where people travel, because the human being is valued in Islam.

He explained that the revolution belongs to the people and that we are indebted to them. He noted: 'The lack of coordination in Kordestan, the failure by some organizations to follow the measures enacted by the Province Procurement Council, and the failure to obey the orders of high officials and the National Security Council in the border areas have caused problems for the people. It must not be overlooked that the respected officials use their good offices on everyone's behalf, that they work very hard to alleviate deprivation, and that our perceptive and realistic people see and appreciate their concerned efforts and unstinting and God-pleasing support.

Partovi added: The efforts to change the names of some mosques, to transfer some of the clergy and to establish several Koran classes have offended Muslims, but what is more worrisome is what is being broadcast by the Voice and Vision Organization. Mr. Larijani, what Mr. Qara'ati has to say is useful, but he has made statements during his talks that have made the Muslims in most areas worry and have troubled them. Why? Is it right to say these things under current circumstances? Mr. Qara'ati, we are charged with maintaining the unity and solidarity of Muslims.

The deputy from Saqqez and Baneh then continued: We need a genuine Islamic and divine system so that with adherence to the noble ethics of Islam we will all join hands in brotherhood with unity and commonality and form our relationships based on peaceful solidarity.

'Abdol-Ghafur Iran-Nezhad, Deputy From Chahbahar

The next speaker was Iran-Nezhad, deputy from Chahbahar. He thanked and welcomed the exalted leader on his trip to the deprived province of Sistan va Baluchestan. During his speech he said: As always, that exalted official's trip to this province was good and blessed. Throughout your trip you saw that the infrastructure projects and budget allocations for great projects such as dams, power plants, cold storage facilities, fishing and commercial docks, hospitals, universities, and other things are among the noble measures taken by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Shapur Marhaba, Deputy From Astara

The deputy from Astara was another pre-agenda speaker. During his speech he discussed the coincidence of the Ten Days Dawn Celebration with the month of Ramadan and he mentioned the rising waters of the Caspian Sea in his electoral district. He said: If construction of the sea wall at the multi-purpose dock, which has cost the government millions of tumans, does not continue, the efforts, work and expense of several years to stop the advancing sea will bear no fruit.

Continuing, the speaker discussed the changes that have taken place in the city of Tehran, both in terms of beautification and in the creation of green space. He praised and thanked the mayor of Tehran and said: Since Mr. Larijani was appointed manager of the Voice and Vision Organization, great changes have been seen. To confront the cultural invasion by the imperialist nations and to continue the cultural and Islamic struggle, sufficient credits must be given to this organization in the 1374 Budget to carry out cultural and development projects, so that the position and standing of the Islamic government will be conveyed to the nations of the world via the air waves of the Voice and Vision Organization.

Seyyed Reza Akrami, Deputy From Semnan

The next pre-agenda speaker was Akrami, deputy from Semnan. During his speech he said: After a long wait, the noble people of the Province of Semnan have succeeded in hosting the speaker of the Majles. In this trip, which included visits, inaugurations, and talks with the people throughout the provinces, there was joy, sincerity, companionship, and cooperation, and this meant that the speaker of the Majles was able to see the vast province.

He thanked the people for their welcome on this trip and he praised all of Mr. Nateq-Nuri's companions.

Nur Mohammad Robusheh, Deputy From Iranshahr

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Mr. Robusheh, deputy from Iranshahr. He thanked the president of the republic, who has devoted his concern and care to bringing about social justice and alleviating deprivation, for his efforts. He said: I expect that as in the past you will order that the problems in the nation's regions be solved and that you will order action to solve the problems in my electoral district, which I presented to you in writing during your journey.

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division: At last night's open Majles session the Majles deputies discussed and studied the 1374 National Budget Bill, and several notes of interest to the Joint Plan and Budget and Economic and Financial Affairs Commission, and several other commissions were approved by the Majles.

Note 2 Paragraph H says: The ceiling on banking means transferable by the Central Bank and all the nation's banks to the government, cooperative, and private sectors in relation to the debt remaining at the end of the year 1373 [20 March 1995] is authorized only to the extent that their net indebtedness to the banking system increases by R6.7 trillion.

Likewise, based on the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission's proposed appended paragraph, which was approved by the deputies: "All government companies, including the government companies who are subject to public laws and regulations and whose names must be mentioned, such as the Iran National Oil Company and its subordinate and affiliated companies, the companies affiliated with the Ministry of Oil and their affiliated

companies, the Organization for Rebuilding and Developing Iran's Industries and its affiliated companies, the Center for Procurement and Distribution of Goods and others are subject to the regulations in Article 39 of the National Public Accounting Law passed in Shahrivar 1366 [23 August-22 September 1987]. A violation of the provisions of this paragraph will be treated as unauthorized appropriation of public funds and property.

The receipt of any kind of funds under any name in the year 1374 by the ministries, the government institutions, and the government companies from real persons or legal entities is authorized only where specified by the pertinent lawful regulations. The funds collected must be deposited into the designated accounts in the National Treasury (with the exception of banks, insurance companies, and government credit institutions), and they must be used according to the case in accordance with the pertinent lawful regulations. The government institutions and companies who are subject to public laws and regulations and whose names must be mentioned or whose names must be explained are also subject to the provisions of this note.

The payment of any kind of funds in the year 1374 by the ministries, government institutions, and government companies out of funds at hand to real persons or legal entities or other executive organizations as aid or gifts except where specified by the relevant lawful regulations, is prohibited. A violation of the implementation of this note will be treated as unauthorized appropriation of public funds and property. The government institutions and companies subject to public laws and regulations whose names must be mentioned or explained are also subject to the provisions of this note.

Cash gifts given to the ministries, government institutions, and government companies for special expenditures must be deposited only in the authorized bank account opened or to be opened by the National Treasury for the aforementioned organizations. The expenditure of the aforementioned funds or adherence to the aims of the donor will be done in accordance with a set of guidelines to be recommended by the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs and approved by the Council of Ministers.

Cash gifts to the ministries and government institutions will be subject to the regulations on government assets, and in these kinds of cases the government companies must do the accounting in accordance with the accounting principles in their offices.

The relevant authorities determining wages and salaries are required, as necessary, in the event of an increase in view of the rate of inflation and the cost of living index, to take steps to make the aforementioned increases by the month of Shahrivar 1374 [23 August-22 September 1995] and before the guidelines for the 1375 [21 March 1996-20 March 1997] Budget are approved and announced.

Morteza Nabavi, chief of the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission, spoke concerning this proposal. He said: Some companies do not now have centralized accounts at the treasury and are not carrying out their budgetary responsibilities. The Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs cannot collect this two percent from the companies. To clarify the accounts and books of the companies, all government companies must be made subject to Article 39 of the Public Accounting Law. That is, they must go and open centralized Treasury accounts.

Note 7

Based on Paragraph H Note 7, which was included on the recommendation of the Labor and Social Affairs Commission, this proposal was approved by the deputies.

"The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is authorized in the year 1374, based on Article 154 of the Labor Law, to collect R12,000 annually for each worker from all units subject to this law who cannot create space for sports, culture, and recreation within their own factories, and to deposit the money into the nation's general revenues account at the National Treasury. The equivalent of 100 percent of the funds deposited will be allocated to the aforementioned ministry to be spent to create, develop, buy, and rent sites for appropriate sports, culture, and recreation for the worker sisters and brothers and for the related current expenses, based on the Law on Procedures for Spending Credits, which under the Law Are Exempt from Adhering to the Public Accounting Law and other General Government Regulations."

Paragraph V says: In the year 1374 the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is authorized to collect in each case R240,000 for issuing and R150,000 for extending work permits for foreign citizens in Iran, and to deposit the money into the nation's general revenues account at the National Treasury.

Based on Paragraph Z, in the year 1374 the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is authorized to collect sums based on tariffs to be recommended by the aforementioned ministry and approved by the Council of Ministers to cover costs pertaining to:

1. building documents and plans and projects to build and develop the factories mentioned in Article 87 of the Labor Law;
2. costs pertaining to registering worker and employer organizations at the rate of 5 percent of the membership fee;
3. studying the classification projects for the occupations mentioned in Articles 48 and 49 of the Labor Law;
4. rendering health care, training, security, protection, and labor health care services as required by employers;
5. selling training publications and pamphlets.

The funds collected must be deposited into the nation's general revenues account, and 100 percent of the aforementioned deposited funds will be given to the Ministry of Labor to be spent developing training programs having to do with the technical preservation of work security, training in worker and employer organizations, reinforcing work inspections, and producing work identification cards.

H: In the year 1374 the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is authorized, through its training and research organizations, to sign contracts with real persons and legal entities to carry out training and research projects and to deposit the funds collected into the nation's general revenues account with the General Treasury.

T: In the year 1374 the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is authorized, in cooperation with the relevant organization, to identify the labor markets in all countries, observing market values, to reinforce specialist manpower and send them abroad, and to collect 100 percent of their training expenses and 30 percent of their wages and benefits in the first month of employment in accordance with regulations to be recommended by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and approved by the Council of Ministers. It is authorized to deposit 100 percent of the funds collected into the nation's general revenues account with the General Treasury, mentioned on Row 419960 Part 3 of this law.

Appended paragraph:

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is authorized:

1. to collect R15,000 in the currency of the relevant nation for the issuance of each employment letter for Iranians employed outside the country and to deposit the money into the account of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is required to deposit the equivalent in foreign exchange rials for the aforementioned funds into the nation's general revenues account mentioned on Row 419943 Part 3 of this law.
2. to collect 20 percent of the salaries and benefits of foreign workers along with the amount equivalent to the unemployment insurance that is collected for Iranian workers from private sector employers and to deposit the money into the nation's general revenues account mentioned on row 419944 Part 3 of this law.

Appended paragraph:

K: The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is required to collect R100,000 for issuing licenses to nongovernment employment and job-finding consultation centers, and R40,000 for renewing the licenses, and to deposit the money into the nation's general revenues account with the General Treasury, mentioned on Row 419966 Part 3 of this law.

Letter from Deputies to President of the Republic

In a letter to the president of the republic more than 186 Majles deputies called for stopping increases in the foreign exchange rate and for a decisive struggle against smugglers of unauthorized goods. The text of the letter is as follows:

To Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the respected president of the republic of the Islamic Republic of Iran: With greetings, thanks, and praise to him for his around-the-clock efforts and to those who serve in the respected government, for efforts they have made to elevate the Islamic Republic of Iran, we deputies of the Consultative Islamic Majles—in order

1. to help alleviate economic problems;
2. to prevent excessive increases in the foreign exchange rate;
3. to bring down the demand for foreign exchange and to keep it at the level of the nation's established commercial policies;
4. to help implement the approved consumption model policies;
5. to prevent ostentation;
6. to help with domestic production;
7. to collect customs levies and fees;
8. and finally to bring under control the some \$3 to \$5 billion in foreign exchange that is spent outside the control of the nation's approved economic policies—we ask you, as chief of the executive power, to order without any kind of delay the immediate and decisive implementation of the Law to Fight the Smuggling of Unauthorized Goods, to equip all the police forces for the task, to confiscate unauthorized goods in accordance with existing laws, and to deal seriously with violators throughout the country in accordance with existing laws. If this is done and the severe threat from the smugglers of goods is dealt with, a significant amount of foreign exchange will return to the nation's foreign exchange system and be made available to the system in accordance with the approved policies, so that the unbridled rise in the cost of foreign exchange will be stopped.

Majles Notes

Effect of Debt by Government Companies to Organizations

Yesterday during the discussion and debate on the nation's 1374 Budget Bill, Dr. Shahab ol-Din Sadr, deputy chief of the health care commission, discussed with our correspondent the need to supervise and control the financial accounts of the government companies. He said: Supervising the financial performance of government organizations was one of the main positions taken by the Fourth Majles. The budget for the government companies is an important part of the figures for the nation's annual budget bill. Unfortunately each year

only a very small part of these accounts has been included in the budget. In the last two years the Majles has made a great effort to supervise these companies, and this year the accounts of more than 109 important government companies whose budgets are more than 10 billion tumans were included in the bill.

He added: A number of government companies have outstanding debts to some of the government organizations, including the Social Security Organization. Based on the Constitution, the Social Security Organization has many commitments and if the government companies

do not pay their many debts to this organization, it will soon be bankrupt and will not be able to perform its assigned responsibilities. This organization provides coverage to several million workers and their families for insurance, retirement benefits, and disability payments. As of next year the implementation of universal insurance will create many commitments for this organization. The failure to pay outstanding debts disrupts its work. Despite all the efforts that have been made in the last two years, the Majles has not yet begun discussing the details of the budget for the government companies.

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